COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 151.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

And to be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., and
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1896.

[C.—7944.-3.] *Price* ½*d.*

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
119	Rodrigues	1893
120	Mauritius	,,
121	Straits Settlements	,,
122	Labuan	,,
123	Basutoland	1893–4
124	St. Lucia	1893
125	St. Helena	,,
126	Ceylon	,,
127	Fiji	,,
128	Grenada	,,
129	Sierra Leone	,,
130	British Bechuanaland	1893–4
131	British New Guinea	1892–3& 1893–4
132	Lagos	1893
133	British Guiana	1893–4
134	Jamaica	,,
135	Newfoundland	1893
136	Gold Coast	,,
137	Zululand	1894
138	Bermuda	,,
139	Bahamas	,,
140	Barbados	,,
141	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
142	Malta	,,
143	Gambia	,,
144	Windward Islands	,,
145	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
146	Gibraltar	,,
147	Falkland Islands	,,
148	Hong Kong	,,
149	Straits Settlements	,,
150	Lagos	1894

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.

No. 151.

SEYCHELLES.

Administrator STEWART to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Seychelles,
SIR, September 12, 1895.

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Blue Book Returns for 1894, which I find were transmitted to Mauritius in March last.

2. As I only assumed the government of the Dependency in July last, I am unable to do more than to review briefly the statistical and other returns which have been forwarded, as not only can I not speak of the past year with any personal knowledge but I also find that no Blue Book Reports have been forwarded since 1890.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

3. The Revenue of 1894 amounted to Rs. 235,411 as against Rs. 232,055 in 1893. The expenditure was Rs. 278,470, as against an expenditure of Rs. 226,226 in 1893. There was, consequently, an excess of expenditure over revenue of Rs. 43,459. This excess, which has been regularized by special votes, was mainly owing to the purchase by Government of the premises of the late New Oriental Bank Company.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports amounted to Rs. 764,080 and the imports to Rs. 604,033. The exports consist mainly of vanilla, cacao and cocoanut oil. There has been a failure of the vanilla crop for two years, but a large crop will be made this year.

The cacao plantations are devastated by rats, but steps are being taken to combat this plague.

Liberian coffee is now extensively grown in Seychelles and will ere long form one of the principal exports of the Colony. At present the quantity grown only suffices for local consumption. The flavour is delicious and compares favourably with the best Moka coffee. The fruit trade has not as yet been developed at all, but I hope next year to see the beginning of a large export trade in oranges, lemons and bananas. We have three markets for fruit, Mauritius, Reunion, and Aden, and I trust that a considerable revenue will be the result of the efforts which I am making to encourage this industry.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any importance were carried out during the year, the public finances not allowing of any such expenditure: the upkeep of roads and of public buildings is almost all that can be managed.

The existing roads are all in a deplorable state of disrepair. Of the principal road leading to the south of the Island parts are quite impassable and have evidently never been made at all. Whenever a difficulty presented itself to the engineer in charge of the work he apparently left it and went on with a further section of the road, so that beyond the first four miles from town the road is a thing of "shreds and patches" quite unfit for carriage or cart traffic, and presenting serious obstacles even to pedestrians. In Praslin and La Digue there are no roads at all.

POPULATION.

The estimated population is 17,625.

The births were 636, against 618 in 1893.

The still-births were at the rate of 2·66 per 1,000.

There were 141 marriages, and the death-rate was 14·80 per 1,000.

This low death-rate speaks volumes for the healthiness of these islands, indeed it would not be possible to find a more healthy spot than Seychelles. I regret it is not known to the English public as a health resort Persons suffering from consumption, throat and chest diseases would find a delightful climate in Seychelles, without any of the sudden changes of temperature incidental to the Riviera.

EDUCATION.

In 1894 there were grant-in-aid schools attended by 2,102 children, against 27 in 1893 attended by 1,968.

There was one Government undenominational school with 72 pupils.

Twenty schools, with 1,688 pupils, were under the control of the Roman Catholic Mission, and eight, with 416 pupils, under that of the Church of England Missionary Society.

The sums voted for education in 1894 were:—

	Rs.
Grants to grant-in-aid schools - - -	8,000
Government undenominational school - -	3,864
Grants to affiliated classes - - -	700

The grant-in-aid was apportioned as follows:—

	Rs. c.
Roman Catholic schools - - -	6,260·02
Church of England schools - - -	1,739·98

JUDICIAL.

There were 675 criminal informations lodged in 1894, and 675 cases adjudicated upon.

There were 692 convictions, 654 on police prosecution and 38 on prosecution by parties, the most numerous cases being for drunkenness and disturbance.

I cannot help thinking that the First Offenders Act could be advantageously applied to Seychelles: it would, I am sure, have a beneficial effect in reducing the prison population.

The number of cases on the civil side were 206, in addition to which 78 matters were dealt with in Chambers and 45 cases in the Stipendiary Court.

Four hundred and eighteen persons were committed to prison; of these five were sentenced to five years or more, and 13 to one year or more, the remainder to less than one year.

POLICE.

The police force of the Dependency consists of:—

1 Chief Officer of Police.
1 Sergeant-Major.
2 Sergeants.
3 Corporals, and 44 men.

HOSPITAL.

The number of persons treated in the public hospital in 1894 was 186, against 237 in 1893, as follows:—

——	1893.	1894.
Paupers - - - - -	80	69
Prisoners - - - - -	43	31
Police, Public Works, Prison, Port and Treasury Departments.	57	42
Paying patients - - - -	57	44
Total - - - -	237	186

Of these 186 persons—

115 were discharged as cured.
38 „ „ relieved.
13 „ „ unrelieved.
15 died.
5 remaining in hospital at the end of the year.

186

Of the 13 unrelieved, seven left the hospital at their own request, two were sent to the Mauritius Lunatic Asylum, and four were removed to Curieuse Pauper Asylum.

The principal diseases were anæmia, dysentery, gastritis, rheumatism, syphilis, and ulcers.

There were in 1894 348 children vaccinated at the Public Hospital, and 16 at the outlying stations, in all 364.

DISPENSARY.

The number of persons who have applied for medicines at the Public Dispensary of Mahé was 8,085, against 8,457 in 1893.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1894 :—

1. "An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 9 of 1893."
2. "An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1894."
3. "An Ordinance to amend Regulation 1 of 1889."
4. "Counterfeit Stamp Prohibition Ordinance."
5. "An Ordinance to provide for the creation of Slaughter Houses in the Seychelles Islands."
6. "An Ordinance to provide for the repression of disorderly conduct in Lodging Houses."
7. "An Ordinance to repeal Sec. 3 of Regulation 5 of 1880 of the Seychelles Board of Civil Commissioners and to enact other provisions in lieu thereof."

ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the last Census returns (1891), there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in these islands.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles.

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain	1
Minister for South Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1
Evangelists and Catechists	10
	13

Church of Rome.

Bishop	1
Priests	11
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order	2
Marists Brothers	7
Sisters of St. Joseph	54

TELEGRAPH.

Since the last Blue Book Report was forwarded (1890), Seychelles has been connected by telegraph with the outer world, the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company having laid a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, touching at Seychelles. The rates are 5 Rs. 14 annas per word to England.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The year under review has been marked by the almost total failure of the vanilla crop and, as this is the second most remunerative product of the Seychelles Archipelago, the consequences have been strongly felt. I am glad to say that there is every promise of a good crop this year. Seychelles has, in common with other eastern colonies, suffered much from the continued depreciation of the rupee and not only has the trade of the country been affected thereby but the large loss on exchange on all Government transactions has been a fruitful source of difficulty to this Government.

H. COCKBURN STEWART,
Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 182.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 151 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October 1896.

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1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
151	Seychelles	1894
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	,,
155	Ceylon	,,
156	Mauritius	,,
157	Labuan	,,
158	Gold Coast	,,
159	British Guiana	,,
160	Sierra Leone	,,
161	Jamaica	1894–5
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–5
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	,,
166	Bermuda	,,
167	Leeward Islands	,,
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	,,
171	Gibraltar	,,
172	Malta	,,
173	Barbados	,,
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
175	Falkland Islands	,,
176	St. Helena	,,
177	Bahamas	,,
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

No. 182.

SEYCHELLES.

[For Report for 1894, *see* No. 151.]

Administrator STEWART to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Seychelles,
September 2, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Blue Book report for 1895.

I have, &c.
H. COCKBURN STEWART,
Administrator.

Government House, Seychelles,
September 1, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Blue Book for 1895.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1895 amounted to Rs. 233,282 as against Rs. 235,411 in 1894.

The expenditure was Rs. 225,500 as against an expenditure of Rs. 278,470 in the preceding year.

The expenditure for 1895 was consequently Rs. 52,970 less than the expenditure for 1894.

Allowing for the special outlay in 1894 of Rs. 30,000 for the purchase of the New Oriental Bank's building, which was quite abnormal, we have a decreased expenditure in 1895 of Rs. 22,970.

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 7,782.

The ratio of revenue to the population was 12·96 per head. The ratio of the expenditure to the population was 12·66 per head.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports amounted to Rs. 525,350 and the imports to Rs. 518,908.

PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any importance were undertaken last year, but the public buildings were all thoroughly overhauled, and repairs to most of the bridges in the Dependency effected. Three wooden bridges have been rebuilt in masonry, and it is intended to substitute masonry bridges for all existing wooden ones, which soon rot and fall into disrepair.

My attention has been directed principally to the repair of the roads throughout the island of Mahé, and I am glad to say that with the slender means at my disposal I have been able during the past year to make some progress in this direction.

I have established the French system of cantonniers, and I have every reason to believe that it will work well.

A cantonnier has the charge of a "canton" or section of the road two miles in length. He lives in his section, and is responsible for the proper up-keep of his part of the road.

The cantonniers are constantly inspected, and I find that with vigilant supervision they do their work in a satisfactory manner, and that the portion of roads which have been put in good order are satisfactorily maintained.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Archipelago on the 31st December 1895 was 17,977, whereof 9,061 were males and 8,916 females.

The births in 1895 were 657, as compared with 636 the previous year.

The mean rate of increase of the population for the quinquennial period 1891–95 is 17·7 per 1,000.

The still-births were at the rate of 2·8 per 1,000.

The death-rate 15·2 per 1,000.

EDUCATION.

There were 28 schools examined by the inspector of schools, one of which was the Government undenominational school, the rest grant-in-aid schools.

The number of children examined was 2,178.

The average attendance for the school year being 1,618.

The sums voted for education in 1895 were:—

	Rs.
Grants to grant-in-aid schools - -	8,000
Government school - - -	3,864
Grants to affiliated classes - - -	700
or a total of - - - -	12,564

The grant in aid was apportioned as follows :— Rs.

Roman Catholic schools - -	6,190·30
Church of England schools - -	1,809·70

In December 1895, 37 pupils from the St. Louis College and Government school were presented for the first time for examination in the classes affiliated to the Royal College of Mauritius, of whom 22 succeeded in passing, securing between them nine prizes.

JUDICIAL.

There were 672 criminal informations lodged in 1895, and 627 adjudicated upon.

There were 838 persons charged and 697 convicted. 184 cases were disposed of on the civil side and 63 in the stipendiary court.

There were also 126 cases dealt with in chamber.

POLICE FORCE.

The Police Force of Seychelles consists of :—

1 Chief Officer of Police.
1 Sergeant-Major.
2 Sergeants.
3 Corporals and 44 men.

PRISON.

Four hundred and six persons were committed to prison during the last year, of which number 24 were sentenced to one year and upwards but under 5 years, the remainder to less than one year.

The daily average in prison was 75.

No deaths occurred.

MEDICAL.

The number of persons treated at the public hospital of Mahé was 141 against 186 in 1894 :—

——	1894.	1895.
Paupers - - - - -	69	51
Prisoners - - - - -	31	23
Police and Government labourers - -	42	16
Paying patients - - - -	44	51
Total - - - -	186	141

Of these—

73	were discharged	cured.
45	„	relieved.
7	„	unrelieved.
10	died.	
6	remained in the hospital at the end of the year.	
141		

Of the seven unrelieved cases one was a sailor on board H.M.S. "Cossack" and had to join his ship, two were removed to Curieuse Pauper Asylum.

The other three left at their own request.

The number of out-door patients in 1895 was 5,915, against 7,237 in 1894.

The large diminution is owing to a new system which I inaugurated last year, by which those persons applying for free treatment at the dispensary have to produce tickets from the police showing that they are unable to pay for medicines or medical relief.

The system has worked well. The late Dr. Monnier, Acting Government Medical Officer, in his annual report for 1895 writes as follows:—"This measure has wisely stopped a gross abuse, " which was at the same time immoral and expensive. The " result of this was that, whilst in the three last months of the " year 1894 1,321 consultations were given at the public " dispensary, the number of consultations for the same period of " 1895 amounted only to 583."

In 1895, 280 children were vaccinated at the public hospital, and 31 in the outlying districts.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1895:—

1. An Ordinance providing for the the service of the Seychelles Islands for 1895.
2. An Ordinance to amend the Auctioneers and Appraisers' Ordinance of 1892.
3. An Ordinance for applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 47,910·59 for the service of the year 1894.
4. An Ordinance to provide for the levying of harbour and light dues.
5. An Ordinance to provide for the levying of a surcharge of ten per cent. on transcription, inscription, and registration, dues and fees.
6. An Ordinance to repeal the tax upon dogs and to impose in lieu a license duty.
7. An Ordinance to amend Regulation No. 1 of 1888, "To " regulate the receipt and payment of money deposited in " the office of the District Clerk."

8. An Ordinance to determine what fees may be charged by public notaries for ship's protests and average bonds.
9. An Ordinance to determine the conditions under which public officers exercising their functions in the Seychelles Islands, and who, by virtue of such functions, are obliged to furnish security, may obtain release from such security after cessation of their functions.
10. An Ordinance to amend the laws relating to the local rate.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the last census returns (1891) there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in the Archipelago.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles:—

CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

Civil Chaplain	1
Minister, South Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1
Evangelists and Catechists	10

CHURCH OF ROME.

Bishop	1
Priests	12
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order	2
Marists Brothers	8
Sisters of St. Joseph	51

HARBOUR.

The following return shows the number of vessels, their nationality, tonnage, &c. which entered Port Victoria during 1895:—

Nationality.	Merchant Vessels.		Men of War.			Mail Steamers.		Number of Men.
	No. of Vessels.	Registered Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	
British	27	6,951	6	15,990	44	10	10,904	2,679
French	2	3,231	2	1,350	10	36	195,624	6,449
German	—	—	4	5,744	34	—	—	668
Russian			1	1,320	17	—	—	210
					24	—	—	300
Norwegian	1		—	—	—	—	—	15
Total	30	11,274	14	29,004	129	46	206,528	10,321

SEYCHELLES. 1895.

Ninety vessels, manned by 10,321 men, entered Port Victoria in 1895 :—

	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.
Men of War - -	14	29,004
Mail steamers - -	46	206,528
Merchant vessels -	30	11,274
Total - -	90	246,806

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Rainfall.

The amount of rainfall during the year 1895 was 101·03, being 10·93 above the average for the previous three years.

1892.	1893.	1894.
87·45	87·77	95·08
Average 90·10		

Number of days on which rain was registered, 138.

Temperature.

Highest solar temp. - -	166·2	on April 24
Lowest on grass - -	68	„ June 26
Highest max. in shade -	86·9	„ May 15
Lowest min. in „ -	71·7	„ July 24

Average temperature for the year as follows :—

Max. in shade -	82·5	mean difference, 6·0
Min. „ „ -	76·5	
Solar - -	147·4	„ „ 73·3
Min. on grass -	74·1	

GENERAL REMARKS.

December of last year marked an epoch in the history of Seychelles, as in that month the last steamer of the Messageries Maritimes Company called here.

The steamers of this company have touched here both coming from and going to Europe for the last 35 years, and we have been accustomed to have regular and punctual communication with Europe, Australia, and Mauritius. They have now,

unfortunately, abandoned us altogether, and we are entirely dependent on the British India Co.'s steamer, whose boats call here on their way from Bombay to Zanzibar and back for our mails and goods. The arrivals and departures of these steamers are most uncertain, but a steamer each way once a month can be counted on.

The flowering of the vanilla during the latter end of 1895 gave a good promise for the crop of 1896, and I am glad to say that the expectations then formed are being realised. The crop now being gathered will, it is estimated, reach 30,000 lbs., and the prices for vanilla this year are exceptionally high.

The flowering has already begun this year, and there is every prospect of a large crop for 1897.

Seychelles vanilla is now most favourably known on both the London and Paris markets and commands a remunerative price.

Next to cocoanut oil, it is our most important produce, and in a good year the crop gives a return of about Rs. 400,000. Unfortunately, vanilla is a most capricious plant, and, whereas we may have a good crop for two consecutive years, we may have also three, or even four, years without any crop at all.

H. COCKBURN STEWART,
Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 214.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 182.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1897.

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1897.

[C.—8650.-12.] *Price* 1*d*.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	„
186	Basutoland	1895-96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895-96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas...	„
194	Zululand	„
195	Gambia	„
196	Malta	„
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	„
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	„
203	Fiji (Trade)	„
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	„
207	British Honduras	„
208	Sierra Leone	„
209	Grenada	„
210	Hong Kong	„
211	St. Lucia...	„
212	St. Vincent	„
213	St. Helena	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 214.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1895 *see* No. 182 of this Series.)

ADMINISTRATOR STEWART TO MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Seychelles,
1st September, 1897.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book for 1896.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1896 amounted to Rs. 243,802 as against Rs. 233,282 in the previous year, and exceeded the estimated revenue by Rs. 4,514. It surpassed the revenue of last year by Rs. 10,520 and was in excess of the average revenue for the six years preceding 1895 by Rs. 24,610.

The expenditure was Rs. 238,177 as against Rs. 225,500 in 1895, and was Rs. 118 under the estimate.

The revenue has consequently exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 5,264.

The ratio of revenue to the population was Rs. 13·32.

The ratio of expenditure to the population was Rs. 13·01.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports amounted to Rs. 1,569,912 and the imports to Rs. 975,079.

14893—750—10/97 Wt 20613 D & S—5 (B)

SEYCHELLES. 1896.

The exports were more than double those of the previous year owing to the large vanilla crop of 1896, which is valued at Rs. 936,000,—63,000 lbs. of vanilla having been exported.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Beyond constructing three vault bridges in masonry no works of any importance were undertaken last year.

The roads throughout the Island of Mahé have been kept in thorough repair and owing to the Cantonnier System, which has proved to be a complete success, the roads are in a better state than they have been for years. Fifty-nine wooden bridges have been repaired and six reconstructed.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Archipelago on the 31st December, 1896, was 18,301 inhabitants, whereof 9,240 were males and 9,061 females.

The births in 1896 was 615 as compared with 657 the previous year; birth rate 33·6 per 1000.

The mean rate of increase of the population for the sexennial period 1891—1896 is again 17·7 per 1,000 as for the quinquennal period 1891—1895.

The still-births were at the rate of 2·1 per 1,000.

The death rate 16 per 1,000.

EDUCATION.

There were 27 schools examined by the Inspector of Schools, one of which was the Government Undenominational School, the rest Grant-in-aid Schools.

The number of children examined was 2,214 against 2,178 in 1895, the average attendance for the school year being 1,608.

The sums voted for education in 1895 were :—

	Rs.
Grants to Grant-in-aid Schools	8,000
Government School...	3,829
Grants to affiliated classes	1,200
Or a total of	Rs. 13,029

The Grant-in-aid was apportioned as follows :—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic Schools	6,470
Church of England Schools	1,529

In December 1896, 41 pupils from the St. Louis College and Government School were presented for the first time for examination in the classes affiliated to the Royal College of Mauritius of whom 20 succeeded in passing, securing between them 10 prizes.

JUDICIAL.

There were 602 criminal informations lodged in 1896 and 565 adjudicated upon.

There were 838 persons charged and 697 convicted; 209 cases were disposed of on the Civil Side and 56 in the Stipendiary Court.

There were also 95 cases dealt with in Chamber.

POLICE.

The police force of Seychelles consists of :—

1 Chief Officer of Police,
1 Sergeant Major,
2 Sergeants,
3 Corporals, and
45 Men.

PRISON.

329 persons were committed to prison during the last year, of which number 19 were sentenced to one year and upwards but under five years, the remainder to less than one year.

The daily average in prison was 73.

No deaths occurred.

MEDICAL.

The number of persons treated at the Public Hospital of Mahé was 183 against 141 in 1895.

—	1895	1896
Paupers...	51	90
Prisoners	23	11
Police and Government labourers	16	36
Paying patients	51	46
Total	141	183

Of these—

88	were discharged	cured,	
55	„	„	relieved,
19	„	„	unrelieved,
11	died,		
10	remained in hospital at the end of the year.		
183			

The number of out-door patients in 1896 was 2,368 against 5,916 in 1895.

The large diminution is owing to a new system which I inaugurated two years ago by which those persons applying for free treatment at the dispensary have to produce tickets from the police showing that they are unable to pay for medicines or medical relief. The system has worked well.

In 1896 453 children were successfully vaccinated at the hospital, and 154 in the outlying districts.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1896 :—

1. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the year 1896.

2. An Ordinance to give a casting vote to the President of the Board of Health.

3. An Ordinance to authorise the survey and detention of unseaworthy British ships about to proceed to sea, and to provide for the regulation of navigation between the islands of the Seychelles group.

4. An Ordinance to empower the Registrar of the Court of Seychelles to issue search-warrants and warrants of arrest in certain cases.

5. An Ordinance to repeal Section 9 of Ordinance 1 of 1892 (Prisons Ordinance of 1892) and to make other provisions in lieu thereof.

6. An Ordinance to regulate the importation and storage of dangerous goods.

7. An Ordinance for the making and repairing and for the police and superintendence of public roads in the Seychelles Islands.

8. An Ordinance to amend Section 4 of Ordinance 4 of 1895.

9. An Ordinance to amend the law as to corporal punishment for prison offences.

10. An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the publication of judicial sales of immoveable property.

11. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 38 of 1888 (Mauritius) relating to wrecks, casualties, and salvage.

12. An Ordinance to provide for the treatment of convict, vagrant, and pauper lepers.

13. An Ordinance to empower the police to search more effectually for stolen property.

14. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1897.

15. An Ordinance to confer upon certain officers the right of entering on private land for certain purposes.

16. An Ordinance to remove doubts as to the powers of persons specially appointed to hold preliminary criminal inquiries concerning capital offences and to make further provision concerning such inquiries.

17. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1896.

18. An Ordinance to prevent the employment as masters and mates of British ships of persons who do not hold certificates.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the last census returns (1891) there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in the Archipelago.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles :—

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain	1
Minister, South Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1
Evangelists and Catechists	10

Church of Rome.

Bishop	1
Priests	13
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order ...	2
Marists Brothers	8
Sisters of St. Joseph	52

SEYCHELLES. 1896.

HARBOUR.

The following return shows the number of vessels, their nationality, tonnage, &c., which entered Port Victoria during 1896 :—

Nationality.	Merchant Vessels.		Men-of-War.			Mail Steamers.		Number of men.
	No. of vessels	Registered Tonnage	No. of vessels	Tonnage	No. of guns	No. of vessels	Tonnage	
British ..	29	6,771	7	14,934	72	24	43,570	3,842
French ..	1	1,319	—	—	—	6	26,972	969
German ..	—	—	1	1,642	11	—	—	162
Portuguese..	—	—	1	729	4	—	—	100
Austrian ..	—	—	1	1,370	9	—	—	224
Norwegian ..	1	329	—	—	—	—	—	10
Danish ..	1	803	—	—	—	—	—	13
	32	9,222	10	18,675	96	30	70,542	5,320

Seventy-two vessels, manned by 5,320 men, entered Port Victoria in 1896 :—

		Tons.
10	Men-of-war	18,675
30	Mail steamers	70,542
32	Merchant vessels	9,222
72		98,439

METEROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Rainfall.

The amount of rainfall during the year 1896 was 115·08, being 22·25 above the average for the previous four years—

1892	1893	1894	1895
87·45	87·77	95·08	101·03

Average 92·83.

Number of days on which rain was registered, 151.

Temperature.

Highest max. in shade 87·2, May 12th.
Lowest min. in „ 68·, September 27th.

Average temperature for the year as follows :—

Max. in shade 83· } mean difference 6·2.
Min. „ „ 76·8 }

SAVINGS BANK.

The following statement gives the deposits and withdrawals of the Savings Bank since its establishment in 1894.

Year.	Balance on 1st January.	Deposits during year.	Total 31st December.	Amounts withdrawn during year.	Balance.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894	open 5th March	27,113	27,113	10,199	16,914
	Rs.				
1895	16,914	27,881	44,795	25,946	18,849
1896	18,849	33,530	52,379	18,866	33,513

GENERAL REMARKS.

I stated in my last annual report that the Messageries Maritimes Company have unfortunately abandoned Seychelles and that we are now entirely dependent on the British India Company's steamers for our mails and goods. The irregularity with which these steamers run is a great drawback and seriously affects the mercantile community.

The vanilla crop of last year is the largest that has ever been grown in Seychelles—63,000 lbs. The prices ruling during the year on the London and Paris markets have also been most favourable, and the value of the crop has been declared at Rs. 936,000.

The large output of vanilla has given a fresh impetus to its cultivation and a very large quantity has been planted during the past year.

When the country is opened up by means of roads, as will shortly be the case, many acres of vanilla land will no doubt be taken up which at present are uncultivated, owing to the difficulty of transport.

In one district alone, the Mare aux Cochons, to which a new road will be opened, there are about 5,000 acres of virgin soil well suited to vanilla.

The cultivation of vanilla only dates back to about 20 years ago, and is only now beginning to be thoroughly understood.

The Mexican system of allowing the vines to grow under trees nearly wild is almost universally adopted at present, and is a decided improvement on the old system of training the vines on artificial supports. I trust that the new mode of cultivating it will go far to ensure regular crops. Nothing pays better than vanilla. Its production costs the planter Rs. 3 per pound, and as prices vary from Rs. 8 to Rs. 16

the pound, a net profit of from Rs. 5 to Rs. 13 is the result. This year the average price was Rs. 15 the pound. The yield may be taken to be 200 lbs. an acre.

Taking therefore an average of Rs. 10, an acre of vanilla should produce Rs. 2,000.

Most of the land in Seychelles is in the hands of private owners, and it is difficult to estimate its cost, but it may be taken that land can be bought at from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 the acre. It has been stated that landowners are reluctant to part with their land, but I do not apprehend much difficulty on this score provided that purchasers are prepared to pay ready money.

There is some land belonging to the Government well adapted for vanilla cultivation which can be leased for periods varying from 9 to 21 years.

Seychelles is unfortunately almost a *terra incognita*, for I cannot help thinking that if the scores of young Englishmen who leave the mother country year after year for other lands knew of it, they would give the preference to an English colony which offers advantages not to be met with elsewhere for the investment of small capital, say £1,000.

In 1882 the yield of vanilla was 2,400 lbs., whereas last year, as stated above, it was 63,000 lbs.

A very considerable quantity of Liberian coffee is now grown in Mahé.

The trees are healthy and vigorous. The following note has been given to me by one of the most experienced of our planters as to the results which may be expected from the planting of Liberian coffee :—

"A year after planting the seeds the young plants should be transplanted, two years after that they commence to bear a few berries, and four years after they have been transplanted they give about 3 lbs. of dry coffee berry per tree. When the trees attain their full development, after seven years, a return of 8 lbs. a tree can be counted upon."

The price of Liberian coffee at present is half a rupee per pound.

The agricultural resources of Seychelles are being slowly but surely developed, and when the country is opened up by roads, as I have every reason to expect will be the case within the next two years, the material prosperity of these Islands will, I am sure, be greatly increased.

H. COCKBURN STEWART,

Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 252.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 214.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

December, 1898.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	,,
219	Lagos	,,
220	Gold Coast	,,
221	Labuan	,,
222	British Guiana	1896–97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896–97
225	Jamaica	,,
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	,,
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
231	Barbados	,,
232	Lagos	,,
233	St. Vincent	,,
234	Sierra Leone	,,
235	Falkland Islands	,,
236	Straits Settlements	,,
237	British New Guinea	1896–97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	,,
240	St. Helena	,,
241	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
242	British Honduras	,,
243	Malta	,,
244	Fiji	,,
245	Hong Kong	,,
246	Leeward Islands	,,
247	Grenada	,,
248	Gibraltar	,,
249	Gold Coast	,,
250	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–8

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 252.

SEYCHELLES.

SEYCHELLES, 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 214.)

ADMINISTRATOR STEWART to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Seychelles,
23rd August 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book for 1897.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1897 amounted to Rs. 296,171 as against Rs. 243,802 in the previous year, and exceeded the estimated revenue by Rs. 47,251. It surpassed the revenue of the previous year by Rs. 52,369, and is the largest revenue ever collected in Seychelles.

The expenditure was Rs. 259,056 as against Rs. 238,178 in 1896, and was Rs. 20,889 above the estimate. The expenditure included special votes taken by Council for Rs. 9,758.

The revenue has exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 36,115.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports amounted to Rs. 1,503,701 and the imports to Rs. 1,122,411.

The large increase in both exports and imports is due to the large vanilla crops of the last two years. 61,382 lbs. of vanilla, valued at Rs. 921,065, were exported last year.

PUBLIC WORKS.

A new ward styled the Victoria Ward was added to the Public Hospital last year. The roads have been kept in good repair, and the Cantonnier System has undoubtedly proved a success.

The filling in of a portion of the foreshore in Victoria is being carried out by prison labour.

1003—750—11/98 Wt 21620 D & S—5 (B)

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Archipelago on 31st December 1897 was 18,639, whereof 9,480 were males and 9,239 females.

The births in 1897 were 618, 302 males and 316 females.

The deaths were 342.

EDUCATION.

There were 28 schools examined by the Inspector of Schools, one of which was the Government Undenominational School, the rest Grant-in-aid Schools.

The number of children examined was 2,332 against 2,214 in 1896, the average attendance for the school year being 1,706.

The sums voted for education in 1897 were :—

	Rs.
Grant-in-aid Schools	8,000
Government School	3,864
Grants to affiliated classes	1,200
or a total of	13,064

The grant-in-aid was apportioned as follows :—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic Schools	6,343.94
Church of England Schools ...	1,656.06

JUDICIAL.

There were 565 criminal informations lodged in 1897.

There were 735 persons charged and 592 convicted. 135 cases were disposed of on the Civil Side and 50 in the Stipendiary Court.

There were also 118 cases dealt with in Chambers.

The first trial for murder in Seychelles took place this year before the Seychelles Court of Assizes. Three men were condemned to death. The sentence was commuted into one of imprisonment for life.

POLICE.

The Police Force of Seychelles consists of :—

1 Inspector of Police.	2 Sergeants.
1 Sergeant-major.	3 Corporals and 46 men.

PRISON.

301 persons were committed to prison in 1897, of which number 19 were sentenced to one year and upwards but under 5 years, six to five years and upwards, and the remainder to less than one year.

The daily average in prison was 70.

1 death occurred.

MEDICAL.

The total number of in-patients treated at the public hospital of Mahé during 1897 was 183, being the same number as in the year 1896.

They came under the following heads :—

—	1896.	1897
Paupers	97	83
Prisoners	11	22
P. W. D. and Police	36	18
Paying Patients	46	60
Totals	183	183

and their treatment resulted as follows :—

—	1896.	1897.
Cured	88	98
Relieved	55	37
Unrelieved	19	22
Died	11	14
Remaining in Hospital	10	12
Totals	183	183

The twenty-two unrelieved patients were suffering from : paralysis 1, imbecility 9, ascites 1, old age 4, epilepsy 1, leprosy 1, dislocated hip 1, filaria 1, anœmia 1, hernia 1, fractured arms 1. 9 of the above-mentioned were sent to Curieuse Island. The others left the hospital at their own request.

The fourteen deaths were due to :—

Enteritis, collapse	1
Strangulated hernia	1
Hepatitis, collapse	1
Peritonitis	1
Dysentery	2
Fever	1
Bright's disease	3
Phthisis	2
Cirrhosis of liver	1
Old age	1
Total ...	14

One case of small-pox occurred in an isolated position about 3 miles from town.

In his Annual Report the Government Medical Officer writes as follows: "Thanks to the energetic measures permitted by the authorities, the Sanitary Department were enabled to take steps to arrest the spread of the small pox, and I am glad to be able to report that the disease has been so far limited to the one case which first appeared, and I think that we need not now expect any more.

"The step which I deem to have been the most important one was the vaccination of the neighbours and the guards in charge of the sick man. The necessity for this was shown by the number of cases in which the vaccination was successful."

The number of persons treated as out-patients during the year 1897 was:—

Females	1,442	2,099
Males...	657	

against 2,368 in the year 1896.

A Public Dispensary was opened at the Public Hospital on February 15th, 1897.

The amount voted for the purchase of drugs, &c. was Rs. 1,050—and the amount received from the sales up to the 31st December 1897 is Rs. 1,700.53.

The convenience of having such an establishment is proved by the use made of it by the poor people, who have contributed the major part of the Rs. 1,700 by purchasing small quantities of drugs.

A trained nursing sister from the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, at Paris, arrived in the month of August 1897, and has already rendered inestimable service in attending upon the sick at the Hospital, thereby relieving the Matron of a great amount of work and enabling her to give her full attention to the general management of the Hospital.

LEGISLATION.

The following Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council in 1897:—

1. An Ordinance for applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 13,976.32 to the service of the year 1895.

2. An Ordinance to provide for the prosecution of employers for breach of obligations towards servants when necessary.

3. An Ordinance to amend Regulation 1 of 1889, and to make further provision respecting larcenies of produce.

4. An Ordinance to repeal certain sections of the Seychelles Capital Offences Order in Council, 1892, and to enact other provisions in lieu thereof.

5. An Ordinance to levy an export duty upon guano.

6. An Ordinance to declare the terms and conditions applicable to loans authorized to be raised by the Government of Seychelles, and to provide for the creation of Seychelles inscribed stock.

7. An Ordinance for raising the sum of twenty thousand pounds for the construction of roads.

8. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 12 of 1896, entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the treatment of Convict, Vagrant, and Pauper Lepers."

9. An Ordinance for applying a further sum not exceeding Rs. 7,802.18 to the service of the year 1896.

10. An Ordinance to provide for the arrest and re-instatement in the paternal domicile of absconding minors, and for the punishment of persons knowingly harbouring such minors.

11. An Ordinance to amend Regulation of Board of Civil Commissioners No. 3 of 1877, entitled "A Regulation for the Management of the Market."

12. An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Police Force in Seychelles.

13. An Ordinance to repeal Mauritius Ordinance 25 of 1875, entitled an Ordinance "to provide for the appointment of Ushers for the Seychelles Islands, and to make other provisions in lieu thereof."

14. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1898.

Ecclesiastical.

According to the last census returns (1891) there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in the Archipelago.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles :—

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain	1
Minister South Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1

Church of Rome.

Bishop	1
Priests	14
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order ...	2
Marists Brothers	9
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	54

HARBOUR.

The following return shows the number of vessels, their nationality, tonnage, &c., which entered Port Victoria during 1897 :—

Nationality.	Merchant Vessels.		Men of War.			Mail Steamers.		Number of men.
	No. of Vessels.	Registered Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	
British	24	4,350	6	15,870	64	26	47,670	4,183
French	—	—	1	650	6	—	—	99
German	—	—	2	3,292	19	—	—	322
Portuguese	—	—	1	729	4	—	—	121
Norwegian	1	1,404	—	—	—	—	—	18
Total	25	5,754	10	20,541	93	26	47,670	4,743

Sixty-one vessels, manned by 4,743 men, entered Port Victoria in 1897.

—	No.	Tons.
Men of War	10	20,541
Mail Steamers	26	47,670
Merchant Vessels	25	5,754
Total	61	73,965

Year.	Men of War.				Merchant Vessels.			Mail Steamers.		
	No.	Tons.	Men.	Guns.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
1896	10	18,675	1,941	96	32	9,222	443	30	70,542	2,936
1897	10	20,541	2,110	93	25	5,754	346	26	47,670	2,287
	—	+ 1,868	+ 169	— 3	— 7	— 3,468	— 97	— 4	— 22,872	— 649

Registration and Mortgage.

	Rs.
The receipts for Registration dues in 1897 amounted to	8,897.76
For Hereditary dues to	4,106.85
For Mortgage dues to	1,446.53
For Archives dues to	37.85
Total Rs.	14,488.99

as against Rs. 11,059 for 1896.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Rainfall.

The amount of rainfall during the year 1897 was 101·98, being 34·70 above the average for the previous five years.

1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
87·45	87·77	95·08	101·03	115·08

Average for six years :—98·06.

Number of days on which rain was registered :—143.

Temperature.

Highest maximum in shade 88·8 April 30th and May 1st.
Lowest minimum „ 71·8 Oct. 13th.

SAVINGS BANK.

The following statement gives the deposits and withdrawals of the Savings Bank since its establishment in 1894 :—

Year.	Balance on 1st January.	Deposits during Year.	Total 31st December.	Amounts withdrawn during year.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894 ...	Open 5th March	27,113	27,113	10,199	16,914
1895 ...	16,914	27,881	44,795	25,946	18,849
1896 ...	18,849	33,530	52,379	18,866	33,513
1897 ...	33,513.56	75,123.90	108,637.46	45,012.93	63,624.23

Crown Lands.

A valuable addition to the Crown Lands was made last year, Government having recovered the "Terrain Audibert," an estate of 120 acres in extent.

Government has also purchased a further portion of the Coco de Mer Valley, at Praslin, with the sole object of preserving the unique palm the Coco de Mer, or *Lauddicea Sechellarum*, which only grows in this part of the world.

Post.

Comparative statement showing number of letters, newspapers, parcels, &c., received and despatched during the years 1896 and 1897.

——	United Kingdom.				Other Places.				Total.	
	From.		To.		From.		To.			
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
Letters	9,387	9,877	3,368	3,296	2,807	2,778	13,623	10,508	29,185	26,459
Newspapers, books, printed papers, &c.	2,813	2,803	207	176	1,273	1,230	547	384	4,840	4,593
Total ...	12,200	12,680	3,575	3,472	4,080	4,008	14,170	10,892	34,025	31,052
Parcels ...	77	113	307	384	89	160	90	76	583	733

SEYCHELLES. 1897.

Loan for Construction of Roads.

A loan of £20,000 for the construction and improvement of roads in Seychelles has been approved, and the services of an engineer (Mr. Waddell of the Public Works Department of Ceylon) have been placed at our disposal. The works have been commenced.

General Remarks.

The year under review has been a remarkably prosperous one. Two good crops of vanilla have done much to enhance the welfare of the Colony, and I am glad to say that there is every sign of an abundant crop this year also.

In my last Annual Report I drew attention to the capabilities of Seychelles as a vanilla-producing country, and judging from the numerous letters of inquiry which I have received on the subject the Report has evidently been widely circulated.

Only two gentlemen have taken the practical step of coming out here to judge for themselves.

Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated with much enthusiasm, the rejoicings lasting for a week from the 20th of June.

A public drinking fountain designed and executed by Messrs. Doulton & Co. will shortly be erected as a permanent memorial of the auspicious occasion.

H. Cockburn Stewart,

Administrator.

10

Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 285.

334
10

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 252.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

January, 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad...	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas	"
278	British Honduras	"
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
280	Grenada	"
281	St. Vincent	"
282	Hong Kong	"
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 285.

SEYCHELLES.

SEYCHELLES, 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 252.)

ACTING-ADMINISTRATOR BROWN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Seychelles,
1st November, 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1898.

I have, &c.,

R. M. BROWN,
Acting-Administrator.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1898.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue of 1898, according to an audited Treasury Statement, amounted to Rs. 316,176 as against Rs. 296,171 in the previous year, and exceeded the estimated revenue by Rs. 52,556. It surpassed the revenue of the previous year by Rs. 20,005, and is the largest revenue ever collected in Seychelles.

The expenditure was Rs. 276,385 as against Rs. 259,056 in 1897, and was Rs. 17,690 above the estimate.

The revenue has exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 39,791.

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Assets and Liabilities.

The annexed statement of assets and liabilities on the 31st December, 1898, shows the following :—

	Rs.
Assets	329,691.11
Liabilities	206,254.38
Balance in favour of assets...	123,436.73

Mauritius Debt.

The debt owing to Mauritius stood reduced on the 31st December, 1898, to Rs. 56,000.

In preparing the statement of the assets and liabilities on 31st December, the financial officers have not taken this debt into account, considering that as it is repayable in annual instalments, and the instalment for the year had been paid, there was no liability.

If this debt could be considered a liability on the 31st December, 1898, it would reduce the balance of assets over liabilities to Rs. 67,437.73.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports, less coin and bullion, amounted to Rs. 1,278,382 and the imports, less coin and bullion, to Rs. 889,041.

The large increase in both exports and imports is due to the large vanilla crops of the last two years. Vanilla valued at Rs. 748,810 was exported last year.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the Archipelago on 31st December, 1898, was 19,535, whereof 10,098 were males and 9,437 females.

The births in 1898 were 596—286 males and 310 females.

The deaths were 342.

EDUCATION.

There were 28 schools examined by the Inspector of Schools, one of which was the Government Undenominational School, the rest Grant-in-aid Schools.

The number of children examined was 2,427 against 2,332 in 1897, the average attendance for the school year being 1,791.

The sums voted for education in 1897 were :—

	Rs.
Grant-in-aid Schools	10,000
Government School	3,864
Grants to affiliated classes	1,200
or a total of	15,064

The Grant-in-aid was apportioned as follows :—

	Rs.
Roman Catholic Schools	8,371.43
Church of England Schools ...	1,628.57

JUDICIAL.

There were 557 criminal informations lodged in 1898.

There were 758 persons charged and 628 convicted. 133 cases were disposed of on the Civil Side and 64 in the Stipendiary Court.

There were also 154 cases dealt with in Chambers.

Police.

The Police Force of Seychelles consists of :—

1 Inspector of police.	2 Sergeants.
1 Sergeant-major.	3 Corporals and 54 men.

Prison.

279 persons were committed to prison in 1898, of which number 16 were sentenced to one year and upwards but under 5 years, one to five years and upwards, and the remainder to less than one year.

The daily average in prison was 56.

Two deaths occurred.

MEDICAL.

The total number of in-patients treated at the public hospital of Mahé during 1898 was 230.

SEYCHELLES, 1898.

They came under the following heads :—

—	1897.	1898.
Paupers	83	85
Prisoners	22	25
P. W. D. and Police	18	26
Paying Patients	60	59
Loan Works	—	35
Totals	183	230

and their treatment resulted as follows :—

—	1897.	1898.
Cured	98	126
Relieved	37	40
Unrelieved	22	32
Died	14	13
Remaining in Hospital	12	19
Totals	183	230

The 32 unrelieved patients were suffering from :—

Old age	6
Idiocy	2
Cancer of stomach	3
Dysentery	2
Cirrhosis of liver	2
Phthisis	5
Paralysis	4
Heart disease	2
Leprosy	1
Inguinal hernia (double)	1
Burns	1
Disease of the knee joint	1
Ovarian tumour	1
Hydrocele	1

13 of the above-mentioned were sent to Curieuse Island. The others left the hospital at their own request, rather than undergo the operations necessary for their relief.

The thirteen deaths were due to :—

Acute rheumatism	1
New growth (malignant) ...	2
Meningitis	1
Heart disease	1
Pneumonia	1
Hepatic abscess	2
Cirrhosis of liver	2
Dysentery	2
Urœmia	1
Total ...	13

The gross amount of the sales of drugs at the public pharmacy amounted to Rs. 1,782 85cs., as against Rs. 2,000 estimated. The cost of maintaining the pharmacy amounted to Rs. 1,120 (being the dispenser's special allowance for attending to the sales). From this it will be seen that the pharmacy far from paying its way as was originally anticipated was worked at a loss.

Several cases of small-pox occurred early in the year, but fortunately the disease was stamped out. A sum of Rs. 1,200 was expended for that purpose.

The number of persons treated as out-patients during the year 1898 was 1,319, against 2,099 in the year 1897.

LEGISLATION IN 1898.

1. An Ordinance to create a police court for the Seychelles Islands.

2. An Ordinance to create the office of Crown prosecutor for the Seychelles Islands, and to define the powers and duties of such officer.

SEYCHELLES, 1898.

3. An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the security to be furnished by the Conservator of Mortgages and Receiver of Registration Dues, and by the officers of the Mortgage and Registration Department.

4. An Ordinance to repeal Ordinance 4 of 1897, and to re-enact the same with certain necessary amendments and additions.

5. An Ordinance to provide for the refund of Customs duty paid on goods imported or purchased for the public use of Her Majesty's naval forces.

6. An Ordinance to confer certain powers upon officers in charge of loan works.

7. An Ordinance to make provision for a general survey of Mahé and of other islands of the Seychelles group, and to provide for the powers and duties of the Surveyor in charge thereof.

8. An Ordinance for raising the sum of twenty thousand pounds for the construction of roads and for a general land survey.

9. An Ordinance to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious and infectious diseases among cattle and certain other animals.

10. An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 12 of 1896 entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the treatment of convict, vagrant, and pauper lepers."

11. An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the security to be furnished by the Curator of Vacant Estates and Official Assignee in Bankruptcy.

12. An Ordinance to empower the Administrator in Executive Council to make regulations for the police order and management of the town and port of Victoria.

13. An Ordinance to make better provision for the survey of Crown lands, and to confer certain powers upon the Government Surveyor.

14. An Ordinance to provide for the compulsory and gratuitous vaccination of persons residing in localities infected with small-pox.

15. An Ordinance "to reduce the Export Duty upon Guano."

16. An Ordinance to make special provision concerning tardy registration of births and deaths occurring in outlying islands.

17. An Ordinance to regulate the printing and publishing of newspapers in Seychelles.

18. An Ordinance to provide for the service of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1899.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

According to the last census returns (1891) there were 2,636 Protestants and 12,608 Roman Catholics in the Archipelago.

The following is the list of the clergy in Seychelles :—

Church of England.

Civil Chaplain	1
Minister South Mahé	1
Minister for Praslin	1

Church of Rome.

Bishop	1
Priests	14
Lay Brethren of the Capucin Order ...	2
Marists Brothers	9
Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny	54

HARBOUR.

The following return shows the number of vessels, their nationality, tonnage, &c., which entered Port Victoria during 1898 :—

Nationality.	Merchant Vessels.		Men of War.			Mail Steamers.		Number of Men.
	No. of Vessels.	Registered Tonnage.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	
British	16	1,319	5	10,890	48	28	48,278	3,707
French	4	980	4	2,223	16	—	—	419
German	—	—	1	1,650	—	—	—	160
Total	20	2,299	10	14,763	75	28	48,278	4,286

Fifty-eight vessels, manned by 4,286 men, entered Port Victoria in 1898 :—

—	No.	Tons.
Men of War	10	14,763
Mail Steamers	28	48,278
Merchant Vessels	20	2,299
Total	58	65,340

Year.	Men of War.				Merchant Vessels.			Mail Steamers.		
	No.	Tons.	Men.	Guns.	No.	Tons.	Men.	No.	Tons.	Men.
1897	10	20,541	2,110	93	25	5,754	346	26	47,660	2,287
1898	10	41,763	1,527	75	20	2,299	224	28	48,278	2,535
	—	— 5,778	— 553	— 18	— 5	— 3,455	— 122	+ 2	+ 608	+ 248

Registration and Mortgage.

	Rs.
The receipts for Registration dues in 1898 amounted to	14,001.57
For Hereditary dues to	10,047.75
For Mortgage dues to	1,547.47
For Archives dues to	26.71
Total Rs.	25,623.50

as against Rs. 14,488.99 for 1897.

Meteorological Observations.

Rainfall.

The amount of rainfall during the year 1898 was 97·63.

1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	
87·45	87·77	95·08	101·03	115·08	101·98	

Number of days on which rain was registered :—145.

Temperature.

Highest maximum in shade	88·7°
Lowest minimum „	69·8°

Savings Bank.

The following statement gives the deposits and withdrawals of the Savings Bank since its establishment in 1894 :—

Year.	Balance on 1st January.	Deposits during Year.	Total 31st December.	Amounts Withdrawn during Year.	Balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1894 ...	Open 5th March	27.113	27,113	10,199	16,914
1895 ...	16,914	27,881	44,795	25,946	18,849
1896 ...	18,849	33,530	52,379	18,866	33,551.3
1897 ...	33,513.56	75,123.90	108,639.46	45,012.93	63,624.53
1898 ...	63,624.53	36,971.42	100,595.95	56,178.68	44,417.27

POST.

Comparative statement showing number of letters, parcels, &c., during the years 1897 and 1898 :—

——	United Kingdom.				Other Places.				Total.	
	From.		To.		From.		To.			
	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
Letters	9,877	10,746	3,296	9,130	2,778	11,784	10,508	23,870	26,459	55,530
Newspapers, books, printed papers, &c.	2,803	6,500	176	180	1,230	12,480	384	395	4,593	19,555
Total ...	12,680	17,246	3,472	9,310	4.008	24,264	10,892	24,265	31,052	75,085
Parcels ...	113	143	384	175	160	187	76	129	733	634

PUBLIC WORKS.

A sum of Rs.3,066.82 was expended on various works for departments, of which Rs. 1,561.95 was paid for labour and Rs. 1,504.87 for materials.

Rs. 3,564.23 were expended on maintenance and repairs of public buildings, of which Rs. 1,352.23 for labour and Rs. 2,211 for materials.

Rs. 4,719.08 were expended on maintenance of roads and bridges, of which Rs. 4,055.65 went to labour and Rs. 663.43 to materials.

Rs. 756.96 were spent on water works, of which Rs. 263.44 for labour and Rs. 493.2 for materials.

Rs. 507.08 were spent on survey works, of which Rs. 129.32 for labour and Rs. 377.76 for materials.

A sum of Rs. 8,714.39 were spent on an extension of the closed customs shed on the Long Pier, of which Rs. 3,963.08 for labour and Rs. 4,751.31 for materials.

Rs. 847.17 were spent on improving and repairing the old customs shed on the pier, of which Rs. 393.43 for labour and Rs. 453.74 for materials.

Rs. 4,145.05 were expended on the new public works yard and offices, of which Rs. 2,323.05 for labour and Rs. 1,818 for materials.

CROWN LANDS.

The total revenue derived from Crown lands in 1898 was Rs. 11,783.51, the expenditure being Rs. 5,185.65, leaving a balance in favour of receipts of Rs. 6,597.86.

Two important contracts were entered into in 1898, in connection with Crown lands, viz : 4 plots of land at Mahé, place called "Capucin," were leased for Rs. 1,040 a year for a period of nine years, and the guano on the Crown Islands of the Amirantes Group was sold for a period of 10 years, at Rs. 5 per ton, of which at least 500 tons were to be removed in 1899, 1,500 tons in 1900 and 3,000 tons in each of the subsequent years.

Few new plantations were made on Crown lands during the year.

SEYCHELLES, 1898.

LOAN ROAD WORKS.

The loan works performed this year consist of improvements to the Victoria to Anse Royale Road, the work done consisting of levelling, widening, and generally improving the road on a length of about three miles from the Port Office Pier, and at places at Cascade, making a new cutting at Pointe Larue, and blasting rocks for a causeway at Anse Faure.

ISLAND SURVEY.

A general survey of the Island was commenced and was actively proceeded with during the year.

I have, &c.,

R. M. BROWN,

Acting-Administrator.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 301.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 285.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November, 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
276	Gibraltar	1898
277	Bahamas...	,,
278	British Honduras	,,
279	Mauritius and Rodrigues	,,
280	Grenada	,,
281	St. Vincent	,,
282	Hong Kong	,,
283	Jamaica	1898–99
284	Lagos	1898
285	Seychelles	,,
286	Christmas and Cocos-Keeling Islands ...	1899
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898 -99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	,,
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	,,
295	Malta	,,
296	Fiji	,,
297	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
298	Bahamas	,,
299	Sierra Leone	,,
300	Gambia	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.

No. 301.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 285.)

ADMINISTRATOR E. B. SWEET ESCOTT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Seychelles,

25th July, 1900.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Seychelles Blue Book for 1899.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1899.

FINANCIAL.

Excess of Revenue over Expenditure in 1899.

The year 1899 established another record in the history of Seychelles, the Revenue collected during the year being Rs.46,615 in excess of that collected in 1898, which was the previous highest of any year, and exceeding the expenditure on Ordinary Services, exclusive of Loan Works, by no less than Rs.93,884. The total Ordinary Expenditure was Rs.268,907, and the total Ordinary Revenue Rs.362,791.

Revenue and Expenditure from 1886–1899 compared.

2. From the following table of the Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1886 to 1899, it will be seen that in two years only, namely 1892 and 1894, did the Expenditure exceed the Revenue, whilst the total excess of Revenue over Expenditure for those 14 years amounted to no less than Rs.251,434, or, in other words, a larger amount than the Revenue collected in any year previous to 1897. The falling off in the Revenue for 1892 was due to the almost entire failure of the vanilla crop for that year, and the excess of Expenditure over Revenue in 1894 was principally

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SEYCHELLES, 1899.

caused by the purchase of the valuable buildings which belonged to the New Oriental Bank Corporation for use as Government offices:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1886	152,858	112,853
1887	171,161	128,117
1888	200,095	188,715
1889	208,967	195,550
1890	224,169	219,393
1891	217,322	210,724
1892	194,843	213,595
1893	232,055	222,226
1894	235,411	278,470
1895	233,282	225,500
1896	243,802	238,177
1897	296,171	259,056
1898	316,176	276,385
1899	362,791	268,907

3. The following tables give a comparative statement of the Revenue for the years 1898 and 1899:—

—	1898.	1899.
	Rs, c.	Rs. c.
1. Customs	177,378·09	219,608·60
2. Pilotage Dues	1,031·04	2,883·43
3. Licenses, &c.	39,490·43	43,373·89
4. Taxes	37,269·04	42,570·98
5. Fees of Court, Reimbursements, &c.	35,991·41	25,997·95
6. Post and Money Order Office ...	10,519·60	9,865·98
7. Rents of Government Property ...	5,665·68	7,836·00
8. Interest on Sums Invested... ...	688·31	710·70
9. Miscellaneous	8,142·21	9,943·53
Total	316,175·81	362,791·06

This table shows that the Revenue for 1899 exceeded that of 1898 by Rs.46,615, and that there was an increase under every

heading, except "Fees of Court, Reimbursements, &c.," and "Post and Money Order Office." In 1898 the disposal of large estates in Mahé brought in an unusual amount of revenue to the Registration and Mortgage Department. The demand for postage stamps, which was abnormally heavy in 1895, 1896, and 1897, was gradually settling down to its normal condition.

Increase in customs receipts.

4. The increase in Customs receipts is very marked, the amount for 1899 exceeding that for 1898 by Rs.42,230·51, and being more than double the amount received in 1895.

Principal sources of revenue from 1895-1899 compared.

5. The five principal sources of revenue are Customs receipts, Licences, Taxes, Fees of Court, and Post and Money Order Office, and the following table gives the amounts realised under these headings for the last five years:—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Customs	107,230	123,827	171,368	177,378	219,608
Licenses	38,312	33,466	35,481	39,490	43,373
Taxes	31,465	33,087	39,475	37,269	42,570
Fees of Court, &c. ...	19,728	19,735	23,189	35,991	25,997
Post and Money Order Office.	20,843	22,709	15,291	10,519	9,865
Totals	217,578	232,824	284,804	300,647	341,413

Customs receipts examined.

6. The most noteworthy feature in this table is, as already pointed out, the great increase in Customs receipts, which have, as a fact, doubled in the last five years—a fairly reliable indication of the increasing prosperity and spending capacity of the islands. From 1887 to 1894 the Customs receipts were as follows:—

1887	...	...	...	Rs.92,971
1888	...	...	...	98,955
1889	...	...	...	120,866
1890	...	...	...	122,285
1891	...	...	...	112,776
1892	...	...	...	95,140
1893	...	...	...	110,700
1894	...	...	...	119,385

The Customs receipts for 1894 thus exceeded those for 1887 by only Rs.26,414, notwithstanding that, under Ordinance No. 2 of 1893, a surcharge of 30 per cent. was levied from the 1st April of that year on all sums payable in respect of import duties, and duty on rum issued for home consumption. From this surcharge of 30 per cent. the following foodstuffs were, and are, exempted:—rice, sugar, dholl, wheat, flour, and lentils.

SEYCHELLES, 1899.

Import duties are levied under Seychelles Regulation No. 6 of 1888, and their amount was based on the various duties in force at the time in Mauritius. This regulation also imposed an export duty of R.1 per 1,000 kilos. on (1) goods exported from bond, (2) goods landed at Seychelles in transit for other ports, and (3) goods landed from vessels in distress, and reshipped. Up to, and including 1896 the export duties received were inconsiderable, being only Rs.15 in 1893, Rs.16 in 1894, Rs.58 in 1895, and Rs.26 in 1896; but in 1897, owing to the operation of Ordinance No 5 of that year, which imposed a duty of Rs.5 per ton on all guano exported from the Seychelles Islands, they amounted to Rs.4,275. This duty was reduced to R.1 a ton by Ordinance No. 15 of 1898, which is now in force, and the export duties for the year realised only Rs.1,394. In 1899 the receipts for export duties were Rs.1,943, of which Rs.1,940 were on account of guano.

Steps are now being taken to work in a systematic manner the valuable guano deposits on the Amirantes Islands, and it is probable that the export duty on guano will become a not inconsiderable source of revenue.

Detailed comparative statement of revenue and expenditure for 1898 and 1899.

7. The following table gives a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1898 and 1899, arranged under the proper headings:—

Head of Service.	1898.		1899.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	4,124	37	2,680	0
2. Pensions and Gratuities	10,057	44	11,040	65
3. Administrator and Legislature	18,806	98	15,169	23
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Departments.	13,876	63	14,116	84
5. Audit Department	3,579	20	3,977	51
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Departments	8,950	76	8,946	28
7. Legal Departments	24,167	61	27,438	41
8. Police Department	26,538	48	28,633	68
9. Prison Department	9,295	59	10,563	97
10. Medical, Hospital, and Dispensaries Departments.	25,855	54	26,293	21
11. Sanitary and Board of Health	6,009	13	7,145	41
12. Ecclesiastical Department	10,645	17	9,750	80

Head of Service.	1898.		1899.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
13. Education Department	15,592	65	15,599	34
14. Printing Department...	3,286	67	2,479	97
15. Post Office Department	5,242	77	6 179	72
16. Transport	13,961	58	4,455	32
17. Crown Lands Department	5,185	65	4,935	47
18. Loss on Exchange	7,036	64	4,842	52
19. Miscellaneous	3,385	55	4,384	16
20. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	21,156	58	20,395	17
21. Copyists	—		689	29
22. Superintendent of Public Works and Government Surveyor's Department.	8,176	53	8,157	17
23. Public Works, Recurrent	13,407	69	11,618	11
24. Public Works, Extraordinary	13,158	44	16,110	64
25. Special Votes	4,887	24	3,305	36
Total	276,384	89	268,907	43

The Expenditure for 1899 was therefore less by Rs.7,477·46 than that for 1898, whilst the Revenue for 1899 exceeded that for 1898, as has been stated in paragraph 1, by Rs.46,615.

The Expenditure given for 1898 and 1899 is exclusive of that spent on Loan Works, which will be referred to in another place, and which amounted on the 31st December last to Rs.251,472·45 out of a total amount of Rs.300,000, representing a loan of £20,000 from the Imperial Treasury, under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, for making a survey of Mahé, and for constructing new roads and improving existing roads throughout the island.

8. There was no change in taxation during the year 1899, as Ordinance No. 18 of 1899, "To levy a wharfage duty on certain "goods imported into and exported from the Seychelles Islands," and which it has been estimated will produce Rs.25,000 a year, was not brought into operation until the 1st January, 1900. Taxation.

9. On the 31st December, 1899, the Assets of Seychelles exceeded its Liabilities by Rs.126,426·26. Assets and Liabilities.

The Liabilities principally consisted of advances by the Crown Agents for the Colonies on account of Loan Works, to which Liabilities.

SEYCHELLES, 1899.

allusion is made at the end of paragraph 7, of advances by the Crown Agents to the Colonial Government, pending the loan of £20,000 for road work and the survey of Mahé being made from the Imperial Treasury (all expenditure on account of Loan Works incurred in Seychelles being meanwhile met from General Revenue), of the balance of the debt due to Mauritius, amounting to Rs.55,000, and of Savings Bank Deposits, which, at the end of last year, totalled Rs.70,605·18.

Assets.

The Assets were mainly represented by the cash in the Treasury chests, which on the 31st December last was Rs.156,475·60, by the sum of Rs.205,066·20 due to the Colonial Government for advances on account of loan works, by drafts for Rs.40,665·85 in transit to the Crown Agents to meet ordinary expenditure in England, and by investments on account of General Services, of the value of Rs.22,550.

Recent financial transactions

Although any account of the financial transactions of 1900 should, strictly speaking, be reserved for the Report to be presented next year, it may be briefly mentioned that the Treasury loan of £20,000 has now been made, that the accounts with the Crown Agents have been adjusted, that the debt of Rs.55,000 to Mauritius has been repaid, that Rs.70,605·18 have been invested in England on account of Savings Bank Deposits in Seychelles, and that a further sum of Rs.70,000 has been remitted to the Crown Agents for investment on General Revenue account, with a view to creating a Reserve Fund to ensure the financial stability of these islands.

Public Debt.

10. The Public Debt of Seychelles consists at the present time of the loan of £20,000 from the Imperial Treasury, under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and the local Ordinance No. 1 of 1900. It is repayable in 30 years from the 26th April last, the date on which the loan was actually made, by means of an annuity of principal and interest combined, at the rate of £49 7*s.* 9*d.* per annum for every thousand pounds borrowed. The annuity for the repayment of this loan will fall due on the 26th April in the years 1901 to 1930 inclusive, and the amount to be annually repaid is Rs.14,816·25, the equivalent, at 1*s.* 4*d.* the rupee, of £987·85.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Total actual imports and exports from 1886-1899.

11. The marked increase in the Revenue for the last four years is brought out by the table given in paragraph 2. It will be observed from the following table that this increase is coincident with the very considerable increase which has taken place in the imports and exports from the year 1896. As the table in paragraph 2 gave the Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1886

to 1899 inclusive, it may be useful if the value of the total imports and exports for the same years is also given:—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
	Rs.	Rs.
1886	409,326	426,470
1887	481,201	621,789
1888	568,289	529,695
1889	570,989	653,102
1890	657,512	620,578
1891	615,919	797,218
1892	481,720	819,399
1893	550,209	828,605
1894	604,033	762,080
1895	518,908	599,745
1896	710,359	1,535,895
1897	942,017	1,503,701
1898	889,041	1,278,382
1899	984,666	1,853,362

The foregoing table shows that in every year since 1886, except the years 1888 and 1891, the value of exports exceeded that of imports, and that, in 1899, the excess was Rs.868,696. The total excess of exports and imports for the last fourteen years was Rs.3,845,832.

Bullion and coin imported and exported from 1889-1899.

12. For some unexplained reason the figures given to the Colonial Office as representing the value of the imports and exports for 1896 and 1897 included the value of bullion and coin imported and exported. This error has been corrected in the

table given above, and the following table shows separately the value of bullion and coin imported and exported since 1899:—

Year.	Bullion and Coin imported.	Bullion and Coin exported.
	Rs.	Rs.
1889	35,000	43,000
1890	40,200	25,000
1891	31,683	9,175
1892	85,800	119,566
1893	36,000	69,877
1894	42,000	33,904
1895	33,000	137,219
1896	264,720	34,017
1897	180,394	63,954
1898	120,640	103,132
1899	57,224	44,300
Total ...	926,661	683,644

The value of the bullion and coin imported into Seychelles during the last eleven years thus exceeded the value of the bullion and coin exported during the same period by Rs.243,037.

Real value of imports and exports exceeds value assessed for duty.

13. The value of imports and exports is in reality greater than the value as assessed for duty. By Mauritius Proclamation No. 28 of 1876 it was proclaimed that "the Order of Her Majesty in Council of the 12th August, 1876, under paragraph 9, of which all taxes, duties, fees, fines, and penalties specified in terms of British Currency in any Ordinance, Proclamation, Regulation, Notification, or Contract then in force, should, until further orders, continue to be levied, assessed, and collected, as heretofore, and at the rate fixed in such Ordinance, Proclamation, Regulation, Notification, or Contract." The "rate" referred to was the rate of the rupee as the equivalent of two shillings, and, as this Proclamation was to have full force and effect in Mauritius and its Dependencies, which included Seychelles, all goods coming from countries where there is a gold standard of currency pay duty at the rate of Rs.10 for every pound sterling, instead of at the proper rate of Rs.15, thus securing preferential treatment to the amount of 50 per cent. on European goods and goods from other countries where a gold standard prevails. It is difficult to justify the present method of assessing, for duty, the value of

goods arriving from gold-using countries, and in Mauritius the anomaly has been remedied by Ordinance No. 5 of 1898. The draft of a similar Ordinance to give the Administrator in Executive Council the power to fix by proclamation the rate of exchange, at which the value of goods coming from countries in which a gold currency of standard prevails, for the purpose of levying the *ad valorem* Customs duty, has recently been prepared and published in the Seychelles Gazette, but its introduction into the Legislative Council will be deferred until the question of the amendment of the Customs tariff can be dealt with as a whole.

Comparative tables of principal imports in 1898 and 1899.

14. The three following tables give, under the headings, "Live Animals, Food, and Drink, and Narcotics," "Manufactured Articles," and "Raw Materials," a comparative statement of the principal articles imported in 1898 and 1899, showing the countries from whence they came. Generally speaking, articles which do not amount in value to Rs.1,000 have been excluded. Thus, tea does not appear in table (1), though the total value of the tea imported in 1893 was Rs.1,496, and in 1899, Rs.1,173. Some countries, which send Seychelles only very small quantities of the articles enumerated, have not been included in the tables:—

I.—*Live Animals, Food, and Drink, and Narcotics.*

—	England.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Animals	—	—	—	—	1,265	1,253	16,195	1,400	864	360
Beer and Ale	2,341	6,465	2,565	1,738	197	84	96	—	1,030	—
Biscuits	2,918	1,716	—	496	—	1,093	42	—	—	—
Butter and Ghee	574	2,262	532	1,036	2,311	2,127	73	—	37	—
Cheese	480	1,249	806	1,099	—	138	27	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	—	—	13,731	15,748	900	—	1,396	200
Confectionery	1,137	1,447	1,259	3,519	—	126	—	—	—	—
Dholl and lentils	—	—	—	825	6,235	3,091	1,737	458	99	—
Flour	—	45	297	232	24,941	24,645	929	1	788	—
Potatoes and other vegetables	—	300	138	49	7,193	4,783	203	—	130	84

Preserves	2,892	4,588	1,042	2,232	125	4,024	258	65	—	20
Provisions	5,048	20,052	1,908	2,422	1,704	1,105	479	718	—	141
Rice	—	—	—	—	161,106	131,454	47,257	19,480	10,775	—
Salt	—	93	—	3	106	234	382	6,621	856	354
Spirits—										
Absinthe	—	—	1,648	4,038	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brandy	230	436	2,222	5,502	—	—	1,145	3,251	30	—
Gin	570	2,497	153	828	70	45	—	—	27	60
Liqueurs	78	264	1,548	2,068	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mastic	—	—	1,395	2,071	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rum	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,545	18,450	—	—
Whisky	2,920	7,986	—	—	—	—	122	—	181	—
Sugar	—	—	—	—	1,727	1,906	24,438	40,435	—	—
Tobacco—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manufactured	94	130	—	676	72	556	1,388	1,527	1,029	2,514

I.—*Live Animals, Food and Drink, and Narcotics—continued.*

—	England.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Tobacco—*cont.*										
Unmanufactured	—	—	—	—	—	—	650	165	—	—
Cigars...	—	—	—	99	1,936	4,217	—	284	193	12
Wine—										
Claret (in cask)	—	—	20,368	47,143	—	—	1,470	—	—	205
Vermouth (in cask)...	—	—	3,600	834	—	—	—	—	—	—
Champagne (in bottles)	—	52	1,473	1,087	—	—	—	—	—	—
Claret (in bottle)	—	—	351	861	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vermouth	—	—	1,263	11,791	—	—	40	—	—	—

II.—*Manufactured Articles.*

—	England.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Books, bound and unbound	740	2,622	200	1,986	—	131	40	—	—	25
Candles	209	13,577	740	751	622	1,033	—	26	—	—
Cement	2,020	435	254	12	1,080	234	—	—	80	—
China and porcelain	1,512	1,029	1,097	217	656	101	395	63	—	—
Copper goods	2,567	3,079	—	—	1,166	87	122	260	—	12
Cotton „	54,326	69,699	17,873	6,895	42,597	71,379	2,025	—	733	2,397
Cycles	966	510	101	769	160	385	—	—	100	—
Dye-stuff, *i.e.* indigo	1,375	2,038	—	318	—	222	—	—	—	—
Earthenware	646	2,371	—	2,173	2,266	1,193	331	—	5	—
Glassware	795	1,791	2,523	1,615	1,720	3,242	290	—	135	—
Haberdashery and millinery	9,550	26,302	25,405	27,003	6,591	15,582	2,525	598	154	1,023
Iron goods	10,550	24,847	2,718	2,164	10,543	4,275	3,213	412	1,627	205
Lamps, hardware and cutlery	2,500	8,295	2,842	3,342	7,694	2,045	652	113	6	605

II.—*Manufactured Articles—continued.*

—	England.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Lead goods	828	1,279	350	552	138	395	—	—	—	—
Leather boots and shoes	3,100	6,418	5,053	3,882	1,308	2,171	350	533	3	344
Painters colours and pigments	1,923	1,798	—	1,347	536	375	235	2,947	—	—
Paper, other than stationery	156	1,024	1,996	1,804	70	380	766	1,164	—	—
Perfumery	305	1,816	2,150	1,995	139	497	100	45	—	80
Photographic materials	—	4,632	136	30	—	609	—	—	48	—
Silk goods	1,411	930	—	618	192	207	—	75	20	85
Soap	301	1,500	1,347	1,957	970	16,261	431	—	11	—
Stationery, other than paper	1,472	1,914	434	1,305	200	139	163	113	—	—
Thread, cotton or linen	1,667	8,869	—	676	—	1,335	348	490	—	—
Wearing Apparel	—	2,589	74	2,407	755	1,495	240	354	60	—
Woollen Stuffs...	7,687	2,568	9,890	—	1,562	46	401	—	12	—

III.—*Raw Materials.*

—	England.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coal	—	75,450	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oil, Linseed	356	840	—	78	—	365	—	162	—	—
,, Petroleum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,887	539	720	7,999
,, Turpentine	92	651	—	—	122	—	—	181	—	—

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15. It will be seen that Seychelles principally draws its supplies from England, France, India, and Mauritius, and the following table shows the comparative value of the imports from these countries for the last five years:—

Comparative total value of imports from principal countries from 1895–1899.

Value of Imports from England, France, India, and Mauritius from 1895 1899.

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
England ...	201,444	173,486	248,798	136,550	323,406
France	79,282	61,461	104,519	131,496	177,619
India	45,888	209,652	235,14	317,123	334,693
Mauritius ...	152,974	123,353	127,661	137,802	123,641

Increase in imports.

16. The considerable importation of coal in 1899, valued at Rs.75,450, is partly responsible for the marked increase in the value of the imports from England for last year, but it will also be seen that the importations of manufactured articles as a whole has largely increased.

Trade with India.

17. The development of the trade with India is very noteworthy, and is to be accounted for by the facilities now afforded for rapid communication between Seychelles and India by steamers belonging to the British India Steam Navigation Company.

Withdrawal of M. M. Steamers.

18. It was prophesied that the withdrawal of the Messageries Maritimes steamers from Seychelles as a port of call, which took place in December, 1895, would have a disastrous effect on the trade of the islands, but it will be noticed that, although the imports from France were less in value by Rs.17,821 in 1896 than they were in 1895, they more than recovered in 1897, and last year exceeded the imports of 1895 by no less than Rs.98,337.

Importation of coffee.

19. Attention should be drawn to the large importation of coffee from India. Seychelles produces in abundance Liberian coffee, of an exceptionally fine quality, but the broken coffee, of a very inferior quality, which is imported from India, and is

commonly termed "sweepings," seems to be preferred to the Seychelles grown coffee by the bulk of the coloured population, owing, some think, to its producing a darker and thicker fluid. This coffee is sold at 25 cents of a rupee a lb., and only the very best Liberian coffee in small quantities can command a higher price. Unless the Seychelles-grown coffee becomes more popular in Seychelles, and can find a larger market, at moderately remunerative prices, outside, it is feared that coffee culture, for which Seychelles is particularly well adapted, will be abandoned. Perhaps, however, better methods of cultivation and of curing may result in obtaining for Seychelles coffee in the European market a popularity which at present it does not possess.

Exports.

20. Whilst the increase in the imports of Seychelles has been great since the year 1895, the increase in the exports has been still more marked. In 1895 the exports were only valued at Rs.599,745. In 1899 their value had increased to Rs.1,853,362.

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21. The annexed comparative table gives the value of the principal for the last two years :—

Comparative table of principal exports for 1898 and 1899.

—	England.		France.		India.		Mauritius.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cocoa	4,778	3,159	1,804	1,561	—	329	680	—
Cloves	600	60	—	—	—	—	—	372
Cocoa nuts ...	—	—	—	16	16,825	10,006	16,331	6,953
Coco-de-Mer ...	—	—	—	—	1,961	8	20	12
Coffee	139	—	—	110	—	1,402	350	1,176
Fish, salted ...	—	—	—	—	—	281	—	1,995
Guano	14,375	8,300	—	—	—	—	4,787	9,850
Oil (cocoanut)	—	—	—	—	216,020	257,288	118,000	85,400
Soap	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tortoise shell ...	23,008	21,664	17,984	5,600	—	1,600	—	—
Tripangs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vanilla... ...	460,320	873,728	271,320	464,992	—	—	13,000	—

exports of Seychelles, showing the countries to which they were exported, SEYCHELLES 1899.

Zanzibar.		Belgium.		China.		Denmark.		Mombasa.		Madagascar.	Nossi-Bé.	Réunion.	
1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	402	322	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	116	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	588	774	840	—	536
8	50	—	—	60	—	—	—	84	—	30	—	—	—
50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	111	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,125	1,250
630	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,300	3,838	10,600	43,892	—	800
42,186	28,998	—	—	—	—	—	—	750	832	13,987	1,332	—	—
—	1,995	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	2,300	1,935	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	180	—	—	1	1,620	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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22. The principal countries to which Seychelles sends its produce are England, France, India, and Mauritius, and the following table shows the comparative value of the exports to these countries for the last five years:—

Total value of principal exports from 1895–1899.

Value of Exports to England, France, India, and Mauritius from 1895 *to* 1899.

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
England ...	92,138	704,508	637,906	505,505	907,142
France	60,625	213,915	348,330	290,958	472,314
India	154,516	384,989	264,605	234,711	271,997
Mauritius ...	236,572	114,645	152,579	157,094	107,919

Besides these countries, Nossi-Be took goods from Seychelles in 1899 to the value of Rs.50,864, and Zanzibar goods to the value of Rs.31,564.

Again, it must be noticed that it is since the withdrawal of the Messageries Maritimes steamers that the trade of Seychelles with France has increased, and that the value of the exports to England and France appears to depend almost entirely on the extent of the vanilla crop. In 1895 there was practically an entire failure of the vanilla crop, whereas the crop for 1898-1899 was the largest on record.

(B.) MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

Manufactures.

23. Five small soap manufactories are in operation in Seychelles, and in 1898 the value of the soap exported was Rs.56,923. Last year the value fell to Rs.30,562.

From the comparative table of exports it will be seen that the greater part of the soap was exported to Zanzibar, and that in 1898 Madagascar was a large purchaser. Owing to a hostile tariff the trade with Madagascar is rapidly dying out. There are three mineral water factories, and an ice factory has recently been established. The manufacture of coprah and cocoanut oil is extensively carried on, and nearly every cocoanut estate is provided with drying sheds and oil-mills. The establishments of the largest cocoanut estate owners are at Barbaron, on the west of Mahé, and on the Islands of Silhouette and La Digue.

Vanilla curing houses, which are generally of masonry, are to be found on almost every vanilla estate of over 50 acres.

Fisheries.

24. The number of boats employed in fishing cannot be exactly stated. Many hundred canoes and rowing boats are owned in Seychelles, and are employed for fishing purposes, and for the conveyance of produce. Several luggers and small schooners, not exceeding 20 tons, are employed on the fisheries, especially on the banks of the islands belonging to the Amirantes and Aldabra groups, and in the outlying islands many boats and canoes are employed in turtle and tortoiseshell fisheries.

The collection of mother-of-pearl shell has recently been started on the Amirantes, and promises to become an important industry.

(C.) Agricultural Industries.

Total acreage of Seychelles, and area under cultivation.

25. The estimated acreage of the Seychelles group of islands, excluding the Amirantes and the Aldabra group, is 45,000, the acreage of Mahé alone being 35,520. Of the total acreage, 30,000 acres may be said to be cultivated and 15,000 to be uncultivated, but the greater part of the uncultivated land is of so mountainous and barren a nature that it does not admit of cultivation.

Difficulty in estimating area under each crop.

26. In forwarding the Blue Book returns on agriculture, including crops, stock, and produce, the Acting Conservator of Crown Lands writes as follows:—"It is impossible to give the acreage of land under each crop. The proprietors themselves have very little idea, and, even if they were asked to send in returns, doing their best to send them in correctly, they would vary between 10 per cent. and 500 per cent. of the exact amount. Again, the land is so hilly, so interspersed with ravines and rocky patches, big boulders, &c., that such data as are required becomes impossible to give.

"A third reason is as follows:—Much land is planted with two or three crops at one and the same time; for example, vanilla and cocoanuts, cloves and vanilla, pepper and Liberian coffee, lemongrass and vanilla, &c., &c., are found together. Again, an acre of vanilla on one planter's estate would not be a quarter of an acre on another, and might be two acres on a third, some planters planting vines close together, and others at greater distances on standing timber."

Rough estimate of area under various crops.

27. At a rough estimate, it may be said that 20,000 acres are under cocoanuts, 2,000 under vanilla, 1,000 under coffee, 300 under cloves, 10 under pepper, 300 under cocos-de-mer, 200 under cacao, 10 acres under tea, 1,000 acres under cassava and sweet potatoes, 300 under sugar cane, 200 under maize, 100 is pasture land, 200 are planted in pineapples, 200 in small tomatoes and vegetables, whilst some 3,000 acres of forest lands are partially cultivated. Aloe plants of large growth are common

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in many parts over the forest lands. Mangoes, bananas, papaw, bread-fruit, orange citron, lemon, limes, bitter orange, jack, Seychelles plum, custard apple, avoca pears, and other fruit trees, are grown on every estate, and especially in ravines.

Vanilla.

28. The preparation of vanilla has much improved of late years. Sun-drying is no longer in vogue. Nearly all vanilla is now cured in properly constructed drying rooms, heated with hot air. The French method of steaming the freshly-picked vanilla pods has been tried, but the boiling-water process is generally adopted.

Coffee-husking machines

29. Many coffee-husking machines for hand power have been made locally. On the Cascade and the Mamelles Estates alone European machinery is used, and it has proved successful in husking and cleaning the berries.

Cocoanut oil.

30. No European machinery is used in the manufacture of cocoanut oil, and no improvement has been made in the methods adopted of extracting the oil, which, though very primitive to look at, appear to be efficacious. European maize-grinding machinery has recently been introduced with success.

Hints as to Vanilla cultivation.

31. The following information respecting vanilla plantations may be of interest and use to anyone intending to invest capital in this industry.

A vanilla plantation should not be started with a smaller capital than £1,000, as a crop cannot be expected under three years. Suitable vanilla land, easily accessible, cannot be purchased under Rs.300 an acre, and, even at this price, is not readily obtainable. The Crown has in the hills a few hundred acres of land, suitable for vanilla, for lease on terms of nine years, with the option of renewal for a further term of five years.

Under the old system, namely, planting on bars, wires, &c., from 1,200 to 1,300 vines were planted per acre. Vanilla is now planted on live trees, and the number of vines planted depends on the number of trees growing on the land. Cuttings of quick-growing shrubs are now often planted in vacant spots, and after three months vines are then planted on them. Vines are planted six feet long, and will begin to bear three years after planting, but will only reach their prime in three years more. Vines are worth from Rs.4 to Rs. 8 per 100, according to the district. The wages of men employed on vanilla plantations vary from Rs.12 to Rs.14 a month, and of women from Rs.6 to Rs.8, in both cases without rations. Labourers on hill estates are not easy to get, and, as a rule, the African labourers prefer working on the moitié or share system. A man can plant 300 cuttings of vines a day, and can keep in good order throughout the year 2,500 plants. Women are employed for marrying the flowers, *i.e.*, removing the pollen from the anthen of the flower and applying it to the stigma, without which operation the flower is lost. No flowers

can be married after midday. A woman can marry from 600 to 800 flowers per day.

Each vine can produce from 25 to 30 pods of different sizes, from four inches to eight inches long. On an average, 130 green pods go to 1 lb. of prepared vanilla, the pods shrinking considerably in preparation, and losing a quarter of their weight. The local prices for vanilla vary.

In 1899 fine prepared pods fetched Rs.16 to Rs.18 per lb.

This year the price is from Rs.14 to Rs.16. Green pods are now being sold at Rs.10 per 100 pods.

The regular flowering season is from August to December. The cost of preparation represents from Rs.1 to Rs.1·50 per lb.

The pods are gathered about nine months after the flowers have been married, and are cured in from three to four months.

In Seychelles, as in other vanilla producing countries, there are bad seasons, when, owing to excessive rain, the yield of the vine is poor.

Dependence of Seychelles on vanilla cultivation.

32. At present, the prosperity of Seychelles practically depends on the one product, vanilla. In 1895, for example, the crop almost entirely failed, and the exports were consequently less by Rs.162,335 than they were in 1894. In 1896 the crop was an exceptionally good one, and the exports for that year exceeded the exports for 1895 by no less than Rs.936,150.

Unless the Revenue of Seychelles is always to be of a somewhat fitful nature, it is essential that other products of an established commercial value should be grown.

Proposed establishment of Botanic Station.

33. On the recommendation of a representative committee, largely composed of the principal planters of Seychelles, the Legislative Council has approved, and the Secretary of State has sanctioned, the establishment of a Botanic Station, and the appointment of an agronomic chemist as its curator. The necessary preliminaries are now being taken, and the Station will be started on a modest basis from the beginning of 1901. Its supplies will, it is hoped, be largely drawn at the outset from Mauritius, but likely plants of economic value will be obtained from other countries, and experiments will especially be made in the treatment of soil. The co-operation of the Director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, has already been secured, and there are good grounds for hoping that the Botanic Station will prove of great assistance in developing the resources of the Seychelles Islands.

(D.) Grants of Lands.

Small amount of Crown land in Mahé.

34. As stated in paragraph 25, the acreage of Mahé is 35,520, or 55½ square miles. Every acre of the island has at one time or another been conceded. Many concessions had been made by the

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French prior to the English taking possession of the Seychelles Islands in 1794, and they were all recognised later by the English.

Certain lands have reverted to the Crown, owing to their never having been taken up by the grantee, or to other causes. These lands are situated chiefly in the hills, and their area is about 900 acres.

Crown Lands Department.

35. At present the Crown Lands Department is a source of profit to the Government. Thus, the cost of its administration, including labour, was last year only Rs.4,951, whilst rents from all sources, including rents for certain islands, produced Rs.7,777; the sale of Crown lands produce, principally consisting of cocoa-nuts and vanilla, amounted to Rs.4,528; and, lastly, Rs.2,500 were paid for guano to be taken from the Amirantes Islands, making a total of Rs.14,805, and showing a net profit on the year, on the Crown Lands Department, of Rs.9,854.

(E.) SHIPPING.

Comparative tables of Shipping.

36. The following four tables show the number, tonnage, and nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the last two years:—

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1898 ...	16	1,319	3	479	—	—	19	1,798
1899 ...	11	982	4	331	4	1,254	19	2,567

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1898 ...	19	1,614	3	479	1	1,404	23	3,497
1899 ...	10	896	4	331	3	992	17	2,219

(3.) *Steamers Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Dutch.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1898 ...	33	59,211	5	2,724	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	63,585
1899 ...	35	61,943	1	2,000	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	1	7,000	45	93,696

(4.) *Steamers Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Dutch.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1898 ...	35	63,152	5	2,724	1	1,650	—	—		—	—	—	—	—	41	67,526
1899 ...	35	61,943	1	2,000	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	1	7,000	45	93,696

Causes of increase in tonnage of steamers.

37. It will be seen from tables 3 and 4 that the tonnage the tonnage of steamers entered and cleared during the previous increased number of steamers, belonging to the British India Colombo, and Zanzibar, and also, as will be seen later, to Sey- of one, as in 1898, and by Portuguese, Austrian, Dutch, and visited the islands the year previous:—

Comparative Statement of Total Shipping

Year.	—	British.		French.		German.		Italian.	
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1895 ...	Inwards ...	43	34,772	40	200,205	4	5,744	—	—
	Outwards ...	46	35,142	41	201,525	4	5,744	—	—
1896 ...	Inwards ...	60	65,253	7	28,291	1	1,642	—	—
	Outwards ...	60	65,253	7	28,291	1	1,642	—	—
1897 ...	Inwards ...	56	65,141	1	650	2	3,292	—	—
	Outwards ...	52	61,149	1	650	2	3,292	—	—
1898 ...	Inwards ...	49	60,530	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—
	Outwards ...	54	64,766	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—
1899 ...	Inwards ...	46	62,925	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399
	Outwards ...	45	62,839	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399

of steamers entered and cleared at Seychelles last year exceeded year by 56,282 tons, this increase being principally due to the Steam Navigation Company, trading between India, Seychelles, chelles having been visited by four German Men-of-war, instead Italian Men-of-war, none of the last four nationalities having

Inwards and Outwards for Last Five Years.

Austrian.		Russian.		Portuguese.		Norwegian.		Dutch.		Total.	
Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1	—	1	1,320	—	—	1	1,092	1	4,600	90	247,773
—	—	1	1,320	—	—	1	1,092	1	4,600	94	249,423
1	1,370	—	—	1	729	1	329	1	803	72	98,417
1	1,370	—	—	1	729	1	329	—	—	71	97,614
—	—	—	—	1	729	1	1,404	—	—	61	71,216
—	—	—	—	1	729	—	—	1	803	56	65,219
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	65,383
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,404	—	—	64	71,023
1	2,400	—	—	1	2,993	4	1,254	1	7,000	64	96,263
1	2,400	—	—	1	2,993	3	992	1	7,000	62	95,915

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Comparative table of total shipping from 1895–1899.

38. In the above table is given a comparative statement of the total shipping, by nationalities, inwards and outwards, for the last five years. Whilst the total tonnage of the shipping of 1899 exceeded that of 1898 by 55,772, it fell short of the total tonnage of 1895 by no less than 304,978. In the absence of any explanation, this falling off in the return of shipping would seem to imply a falling off in the trade of Seychelles, and a decrease in its prosperity. But this is not the case. During the year 1895 the large steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company, running between Marseilles and Australia, made Seychelles a port of call on their outward and homeward voyages, and a branch line of steamers of the same company was also running between Mauritius and Seychelles. The result was that the actual tonnage of vessels entered and cleared was far greater than the trade of the Colony required, whilst as a fact the admirable passenger and mail service which the Messageries Maritimes steamers afforded, and the loss of which many persons not unnaturally regret, did little to develop either the resources or the commerce of Seychelles.

Falling off of shipping as compared with 1895 explained.

View of the late Administrator not confirmed by actual results.

In his Blue Book Report for 1896 the late Administrator of Seychelles lamented the loss of the Messageries Maritimes steamers, in the following words:—"I stated in my last Annual Report that the Messageries Maritimes Company have, unfortunately, abandoned Seychelles, and that we are now entirely dependent on the British India Company's steamers for our mails and goods. The irregularity with which these steamers run is a great drawback, and seriously affects the mercantile community."

Expansion of trade dates from withdrawal of M. M. Steamers, and visits of British India Steamers.

The comparative statement of the Revenue and Expenditure given in paragraph 2 of the present Report, and that of the imports and exports given in paragraph 11, show that the expansion of the trade of Seychelles, and the consequent growth of its Revenue, date only from 1896, that is, after the Messageries Maritimes steamers had ceased to call at Seychelles.

Natural direction of trade.

The natural direction of trade of Seychelles is with England, India, Mauritius, and the East of Africa, and the Messageries Maritimes steamers only served for the Mauritius trade. Since 1895 the trade with Mauritius has slightly fallen off.

But it is reasonable to anticipate that the regular monthly service which now exists, by means of the British India steamers, between Mauritius and Seychelles will tend to increase the trade between the two countries. As has been previously pointed out, the trade with France, which suffered during 1896 from the withdrawal of the Messageries Maritimes steamers, has now more than recovered, the imports from France in 1899 exceeding the imports in 1895 by Rs.98,337, whilst the value of the exports to France, which in 1895 was only Rs.60,625, increased in 1899 to Rs.472,314.

Even allowing for the natural development of Seychelles during the last four years, and for the increase of the area of land under cultivation, and especially vanilla cultivation, it is clear that the substitution of the steamers of the British India Company for those of the Messageries Maritimes has proved of great advantage to the islands.

Comparative statement of men-of-war visiting Seychelles from 1895–1899.

39. The following comparative statement, giving separately the men-of-war, according to nationalities, which entered at Seychelles from 1895 to 1899, shows that, after British men-of-war, a greater number of German men-of-war have called at Seychelles than of any other nation:—

SEYCHELLES, 1899.

Comparative Statement of Men-of-War

Year.	British.			French.			German.			Portuguese.		
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.
1895	6	15,990	44	2	1,350	10	4	5,744	34	—	—	—
1896	7	14,934	72	—	—	—	1	1,642	11	1	729	4
1897	6	15,870	64	1	650	6	2	3,292	19	1	729	4
1898	5	10,890	48	4	2,223	16	1	1,650	—	—	—	—
1899	5	9,871	30	1	2,000	4	4	14,589	78	1	2,993	2
Totals...	29	67,555	258	8	6,223	36	12	26,917	142	3	4,451	10

entered at Seychelles from 1895–1899.

Austrian.			Russian.			Dutch.			Italian.			Year.
No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
—	—	—	1	1,320	17	1	4,600	24	—	—	—	1895
1	1,370	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1896
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1897
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1898
1	2,440	10	—	—	—	1	7,000	12	1	1,399	4	1899
2	3,810	19	1	1,320	17	2	11,600	36	1	1,399	4	Totals.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Ordinances of 1899 more numerous than in any previous year.

40. 1899 was prolific in legislation, 28 Ordinances having been passed during the year, or 10 more than the previous highest number since, and including, 1889, when the Board of Civil Commissioners was converted into a Legislative Council.

General classification of Ordinances.

41. Of these 28 Ordinances, eight relate to measures for safeguarding the public health, by means of quarantine, compulsory vaccination, and forced notification of public diseases, two to the management of the Customs, the first one being a complete code, and the second an amendment of clerical errors, and three amended the Penal Code in many particulars. Of the remaining Ordinances, No. 18, which was brought into force on the 1st January last, imposed a wharfage duty on certain goods imported into, and exported from, the Seychelles Islands, in order to raise additional revenue to meet the contribution of Seychelles towards the new mail service performed by steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company between Aden, Colombo, Mauritius, and Seychelles. No. 19 regulated the practice of pharmacy and the sale of poisons, and No. 20 provided for, and regulated, public hospitals and dispensaries. Ordinances Nos. 19 and 20 are perhaps somewhat in advance of immediate requirements, but they are useful measures.

Quarantine Ordinance the most important.

42. Of the first group of Ordinances, Ordinance No. 27, which consolidates and amends the laws relating to quarantine, is the most important.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Number and distribution of Schools.

43. The number of grant-aided denominational primary schools in 1899 was 25, 19 being under the management of the Roman Catholic Mission, and six under that of the Church of England. In addition, there were two other Roman Catholic schools, which, for want of certificated masters, were not recognised by the Board of Education as grant-aided schools.

44. Besides the grant-aided schools, there were (1) the St. Louis College (paying section), with 102 pupils on the roll and 94 in average attendance, (2) the Convent School for girls, with 105 pupils on the roll and 90 in average attendance, and (3) the Government Undenominational School, with 106 pupils on the roll and 76 in average attendance.

St. Louis Roman Catholic College.

45. Much credit is due to the Frères Maristes of St Louis Roman Catholic College, Victoria, for the excellent work done in the past, and for the satisfactory results attained at the last examination, 146 boys having passed out of 159 presented.

Convent School for girls.

46. The results at the Convent School for girls were even more satisfactory, 163 girls having passed out of 168 presented for examination.

47. At the Government Undenominational School the results were also very good, 63 pupils successfully passing in their respective standards out of 69 examined.

Government Undenominational School.

48. A high percentage of passes was also secured by St. Paul's (Church of England) Mixed School, in Victoria, 47 children satisfying the Examiner out of 54 presented for examination.

St. Paul's Church of England mixed School.

49. In the following table is given a comparative statement for the last five years, showing the number of Roman Catholic and Church of England Schools, the number of pupils on the roll and in average attendance, and the amount of grant earned. Similar information is afforded respecting the Government School:—

Comparative statement of Schools from 1895–1899.

—	Roman Catholic.					Church of England.					Government School.				
	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
No. of schools	18	19	20	21	21	7	7	7	6	6	1	1	1	1	1
No. of pupils on roll	1,685	1,680	1,824	1,967	2,129	417	458	428	376	374	76	76	80	84	106
No. of pupils in average attendance.	1,263	1,259	1,345	1,488	1,619	293	291	303	241	259	62	58	58	62	76
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.					
Grant earned	6,190	6,470	6,343	8,371	8,450	1,809	1,529	1,656	1,628	1,549	NOTE.—The cost of the Government school is provided for annually in the estimates.				

50. At the St. Louis Roman Catholic College, and at the Government School, secondary education is given in the highest classes, which are affiliated to the Royal College of Mauritius. Secondary Education.

51. The grant-in-aid to schools, which was Rs.8,000 in 1895, 1896, and 1897, was raised in 1898 to Rs.10,000, at which figure it now remains. If funds admit, the grant for 1901 should be increased to Rs.12,000. Grants to Schools.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

52. As far back as June, 1882, I find that the late Mr. A. S. C. Barkly, then Chief Civil Commissioner of Seychelles, made the following statement in his Annual Report on the islands:—"The condition and management of this (*i.e.*, the Victoria) Hospital are all that can be desired, and the institution is a credit to the Dependency"; whilst the Chief Government Medical Officer in his Annual Report for last year writes as follows:—"The Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny continue to render splendid service at the Victoria Hospital. They deserve the highest credit for their services, and, thanks to their care and assiduous attention to the patients, I am enabled to report a low death rate of a little over 2·9 per cent. amongst the patients treated at this hospital. Victoria Hospital.

The success of the hospital, which I have been glad to see attested to by numerous visitors to Mahé, is in fact primarily attributable to the admirable manner in which the Sisters perform their duties, to the scrupulous cleanliness in which all parts of the buildings are kept, and to the special care given to the preparation of food.

The hospital is well situated on the rising ground overlooking the town of Victoria, and the buildings are well arranged and well ventilated.

53. The following table shows the result of the treatment of in-patients at the hospital from 1895 to 1899:— Hospital Statistics.

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1895 ...	73	45	7	10	6	141
1896 ...	88	55	19	11	10	183
1897 ...	98	37	22	14	12	183
1898 ...	126	40	32	13	19	230
1899 ...	190	54	12	8	9	273

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The increase in the number of patients in 1898 and 1899 is mainly due to the importation of coolies from India for employment on road work, who, when sick, were treated in the hospital.

Cause of increase in number of patients.

Principal diseases.

54. The principal diseases for which persons were admitted to hospital in 1899 were syphilis, rheumatism, dysentery, and bronchitis, whilst 43 patients were treated for injuries and 25 for fractures.

Absence of malarial fever.

There were only two cases of malarial fever, and both were imported. The Chief Government Medical Officer, writing on the subject, states:—"I have sought for a true case (*i.e.*, of malarial fever) ever since I have been in Seychelles, and, with the exception of cases imported from other countries, I have never seen one."

Out-patients.

55. The out-patient department at the Victoria Hospital, which is open three mornings during the week, was attended by 2,172 persons, of whom 1,716 were females and 456 males. In 1898 the total number of out-patients was 1,319, in 1897, 2,099, in 1896, 2,368, and in 1895, 5,916. The falling off in the number of persons who received free treatment as out-patients is due to the system introduced in 1895, under which applicants for free treatment have to produce tickets from the police certifying to their inability to pay for medicines or medical relief. That this was a necessary change is clear from the fact that, in 1894, the number of out-patients treated was 7,237, and 8,457 in 1893, or more than half the number of the total population of Mahé in that year.

No Lunatic Asylum, Patients treated in Mauritius.

56. Seychelles has no asylum for lunatic patients, and no reformatory. Lunatics are now sent to the admirably equipped asylum at Beau Bassin, Mauritius, but it is hoped shortly to establish on the Island of Praslin, some 25 miles from Mahé, a suitable institution for the small number of patients, namely 14, now under treatment in Mauritius.

The want of a reformatory has not, so far, been felt, but better separation and classification of prisoners is required. This matter will be discussed in its proper place.

Leper and Pauper Establishments.

57. On the Island of Curieuse, which lies to the north of Praslin, the leper asylum and pauper establishment are placed. On the 31st December last there were seven paupers, of whom six were males and one a female. In the leper asylum, or rather camp as it should more correctly be called, there were six patients, five being males and one a female. Everything that is possible is done to alleviate the condition of these unfortunate beings, and they appear to be as contented as is possible under the distressing circumstances of their disease.

The leper and pauper establishments are under the direct management of the Assistant Government Medical Officer, stationed at Praslin, who has also charge of public dispensaries in the Islands of Praslin and La Digue, at which 392 patients were treated during 1899, 335 being males and 57 females.

58. The Government Savings Bank was first opened on the 5th March, 1894, and, at the end of that year, the total amount deposited was Rs.16,914. Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum is paid on deposits. Up to the end of last year no portion of the deposits had been invested, and the interest therefore paid by the Government represented a loss to the public revenue. This omission has now been made good, and a sum equivalent to the total amount of deposits has been invested by the Crown Agents in England on behalf of the Seychelles Government. Savings Bank.

The following table gives the number of depositors and the amount of deposits in the Savings Bank during the last five years:— Savings Bank Statistics.

Year.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
		Rs.
1895	32	18,849.11
1896	26	33,513.56
1897	46	63,624.53
1898	40	44,417.27
1899	47	70,605.18

59. If circumstances later admit, branch Savings Banks should be established at the most central point on the west of Mahé, and also at Praslin and La Digue. It is the more necessary to encourage people to open accounts with the Savings Bank, as, since the failure of the New Oriental Bank Corporation in 1892, there has been no bank in Seychelles. There is room and scope for a bank in Seychelles doing business on sound banking principles, and a bank properly managed would be a great benefit to the inhabitants of the islands, as the ordinary rate of interest on loans, even when good security is offered, is from 9 per cent. to 15 per cent. per annum. Necessity for branch Savings Banks. Need of a Bank in Seychelles.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

60. The strength of the Police Force in 1899 was 54 of all ranks, including an inspector and sergeant-major. The cost of the force was Rs.28,633. On the whole the work done by the force was creditable to it, seeing that, out of 679 persons charged by the police, convictions were obtained in 630 cases. Police.

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61. The following table gives a summary of the cases which came before the different courts during the last year, and their results:—

Statistics of Criminal and Civil Cases from 1895–1899.

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Court Cases.	No. of Cases in Chamber.
1895 ...	672	627	838	697	184	63	126
1896 ...	602	565	793	595	209	56	95
1897 ...	565	556	735	592	135	50	118
1898 ...	557	532	758	628	133	64	154
1899 ...	577	563	764	671	133	61	94

Drunkenness principal cause of crimes.

62. In reporting on the criminal statistics for last year, the Acting Judge of Seychelles points out that the majority of police prosecutions was for disturbance, drunkenness, and assault, and that the cases of disturbance and assault were, as usual, mostly the result of drink. Drunkenness is in fact the curse of Seychelles, and if it could be prevented the difficulty as to the supply of labour would, in some measure, be removed, whilst the inmates of the prison would be reduced by at least one-third in number.

Prisons.

63. There is only one prison in the Seychelles Islands, the responsible head of which is the Inspector of Police, who is also styled Superintendent of Prisons. The regular prison staff consisted in 1899 of a gaoler, eight guards, and three overseers of prison gangs. The female prison is in a separate building, and is under the charge of a matron. Of the 321 persons committed to prison in 1899, 77 were females, but the daily average number of female prisoners during the year was only four, the daily average number of males being 46.

The prison, which adjoins the grounds of Government House and the Central Police Station in Victoria, is unsuited for its purpose, and the construction of proper prison buildings is now under consideration.

Cost of Prison, and earnings of prisoners.

64. The total cost of the Prison Department in 1899 was Rs.10,563·97, and the prisoners' earnings are given as Rs.563·85. But this sum only represents the actual amount of money paid by private persons for work done by prisoners in the prison, and no account is taken of the value of labour performed by prisoners in the upkeep of Government House grounds, which are kept in order entirely by prison labour, in services done for the Public

Works Department, or scavengering the town of Victoria. Nor is account taken of work done in the prison itself for Government departments. If account was taken of these various services, it would probably be found that the value of prison work more than equalled the cost of the prison establishment.

Prison Statistics from 1895–1899.

65. In the following table is given a comparative statement for the last five years of the number of persons committed to prison, and the daily average of prisoners in prison :—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1895...	406	75
1896...	329	73
1897...	301	70
1898...	279	56
1899...	321	50

The above figures are satisfactory, showing that the number of persons committed to prisons was less last year by 85 than it was in 1895, and that the daily average of prisoners was less by 25 than it was in that year.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Growth in population, and low death rate.

66. According to the census of 1881, the population of the Seychelles Islands was in that year ascertained to be 14,191; the death rate being 17·96 per 1,000, and the birth rate 35·37.

Census of 1881.

67. In 1891 the population, as given in the census returns for that year, had increased to 16,440; the death rate being 18·37 per 1,000, and the birth rate 37·53.

Census of 1891.

Estimated population in 1899.

68. In the nine years following, the growth of the population, as would be expected from the increasing prosperity of the islands, was more rapid than in the previous decade, and on the 31st December last the total population was estimated to be 19,638, with a death rate for 1899 of only 14·07 per 1,000, and a birth rate of 32·05.

1899 compared with 1898.

69. The returns of population of 1899 show an increase of only 103 over the population for 1898. In 1898, 320 coolies were imported from India for work on the roads of Mahé, and their arrival created an artificial increase in the population for that year.

Of these coolies, 275 returned to India in 1899, and thus the slight increase in the population for 1899 over 1898 is accounted for.

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Number of deaths and births.

70. The total number of deaths in 1899 was 275, and the total number of births 635. Of the deaths, 121 were of children under five years of age, 121 of persons over five years and under 70, and 33 of persons over 70.

Cause of infant mortality.

71. The Chief Government Medical Officer in referring to the high rate of infant mortality states that it is due to the ignorance of parents more than anything else, and to the difficulty of obtaining medical advice in the country districts.

Vital Statistics for 1895–1899.

72. The following table gives the estimated population of Seychelles, and the birth and death rates for the last five years:—

Year.	Total Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1895...	17,977	37·2	15·2
1896...	18,301	33·6	16·0
1897...	18,639	33·7	18·6
1898...	19,535	30·50	18·47
1899...	19,638	32·05	14·07

Public Health.

73. The low death rate—only 14·07 per 1,000 for 1899—speaks volumes for the general healthiness of the Seychelles Islands. According to the statistics for 1898 and 1899, the period during which the south-east trade-wind blows, that is, generally speaking, from May to September, is the healthiest season of the year. In writing on this subject the Chief Government Medical Officer states that, "the months during which the trade-wind does not blow are the months in which most of the rain falls, and it is during those months that most of the deaths occur."

Cause of death.

He adds:—"As to the causes of death, I have noticed that, amongst children at least, dysentery is most common, either when the streams are low, and the infusion of vegetable matter in the streams is very concentrated, or after rain, when the river beds are stirred up, and this vegetable refuse is being washed down to the sea. After a few days rain, when the rivers, though turbid, are clear of vegetable matter, the cases of dysentery diminish, and do not increase to any extent until the rivers have fallen, and have had time to fill up with leaves and sticks and other vegetable refuse, which, by its decomposition in the now stagnant or semi-stagnant pools, renders the water dangerous for drinking purposes."

Absence of malarial fever.

74. Malarial fever does not exist in Seychelles. The Chief Government Medical Officer reports that he has sought for a true case ever since he has been in Seychelles, and, with the

exception of cases imported from other countries, he has never met one.

Sanitary condition of Colony.

75. The general sanitary condition of the Colony is pronounced by the Chief Government Medical Officer to be good, and he considers that, "if the mass of the population, who live out of door lives, could be induced to boil or filter the water which they drink, and to consume a little less rum, a more healthy existence could not be imagined."

Condition of town of Victoria.

76. What is true, however, of the country districts of Mahé and of the other islands is not true in the case of the only town, Victoria. Owing to scarcity of building land, houses are crowded too close together, though the main streets are sufficiently wide. No systematic system of drainage exists, and there is no proper latrine service. The water supply of the town is on the whole fairly good, and is obtained from three reservoirs. It could, however, be easily improved, and this question and those connected with the drainage and latrine service of the town require, and will receive, early attention.

Climate.

77. The climate of Seychelles is very equable, as would be supposed from the position of the islands, all of which are situated between the parallels of 4° and 5° S. latitude. The mean temperature for 1898 was 79·40, and for 1899, 78·84. The coolest and driest months of the year are from June to October, whilst the heat of the period from November to May is tempered by rain.

The station where meteorological observations are taken is situated at the Port Office, Victoria, and is about 20 feet above sea level. On the hills, where many of the planters live, and where there are also several private houses, the rainfall is much greater than in Victoria, and the thermometer falls considerably lower.

Comparative table of rainfall and temperature.

78. The following table gives the rainfall and the maxima and minima shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall.	Maximum shade Temperature.	Minimum shade Temperature.
1895	101·93	86·9	71·7
1896	115·08	87·2	68·0
1897	101·98	88·8	71·8
1898	97·63	82·9	77·4
1899	88·42	80·9	73·3

Rain fell on 145 days in 1898 and on 162 days in 1899.

SEYCHELLES, 1899.

Direction of wind.

79. The prevailing directions of the wind are S. and S.E., and N. and N.W., and the average force of the wind in 1899 is given in the following table:—

Month.	Miles per hour.
January	7·6
February	5·3
March	4·2
April	4·5
May	7·6
June	11·0
July	13·7
August	13·6
September...	11·2
October	7·9
November...	4·5
December	5·3

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICES.

Increase in postal business.

80. The surest proof of the increasing volume of business done in Seychelles may be gathered from the Post Office statistics, and the following comparative table for the last five years will probably be of interest:—

Year	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Letters received	13,116	12,056	12,655	22,530	28,544
Letters sent	17,871	16,991	13,804	33,000	38,040
Newspapers, samples, &c., received.	3,981	4,086	4,033	18,930	47,540
Newspapers, samples, &c., sent	979	754	560	575	6,810
Parcels received	332	166	273	333	259
Parcels sent	173	417	460	304	392
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	17,072	25,912	36,661	44,959	62,673
Money Orders paid	15,873	24,406	41,225	14,194	22,325

From this table it will be seen that the number of letters received in 1899 exceeded the number in 1895 by 15,428, and that the number of letters sent in 1899 exceeded the number sent in 1895 by 20,169. Newspapers, samples, &c., received show an increase of 43,559, and those sent an increase of 5,831; whilst, lastly, the value of the money orders issued in the Colony was greater in 1899 by Rs.45,601 than it was in 1895. The increase in the number of letters received and sent is largely attributable to the introduction of the penny post.

Absence of inland postal system.

81. At present there is no system of inland postage or delivery of letters in the islands. It is intended to supply this want in 1901, the necessary legislation on the subject having recently taken place, and the sanction of the Secretary of State having been obtained for such expenditure as will be entailed being provided for in the Estimates for next year.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Changes in Establishment.

82. As I was only responsible for the administration of the Seychelles during the last month and a half of 1899, I have purposely lengthened my remarks, which are mostly of what may be termed a historical or statistical nature, with a view to curtailing my observations of a more general character.

Death of Administrator H. C. Stewart, C.M.G.

I cannot, however, refrain from referring briefly to the tragical death of the late Administrator, Mr. H. Cockburn Stewart, C.M.G., my friend of 18 years standing. Though in failing health, and warned that an early voyage to Europe was absolutely essential for his recovery, he delayed his departure from Seychelles in order to endeavour to overcome unforeseen difficulties which had arisen in connection with the carrying out of a programme of road work for the development of the island of Mahé, which had been entered upon on the advice of expert engineers from Ceylon, and with the approval of the Home Government, and for the execution of which a loan of £20,000 was to be made by the Imperial Government, on the security of the Colonial Revenue. Mr. Stewart left Seychelles in the middle of May, but his departure had been too long deferred. He died in the Red Sea on the 4th June, and his remains found a resting place in the cemetery at Suez. Mr. Stewart had been four years Administrator of Seychelles, and in that time he had seen the Revenue increase from Rs.233,282 to Rs.316,176, its imports increase from Rs.518,908 to Rs.889,041, and its exports from Rs.599,745 to Rs.1,278,382. Mr. Stewart had previously acted in 1881 as Chief Civil Commissioner of Seychelles, before it was constituted an Administratorship. In that year the Revenue was only Rs.129,508, whilst the imports and exports were valued at Rs.305,976 and Rs.321,245 respectively. Cocoanut oil was then practically the sole export of value, and vanilla, if cultivated at all, was planted on a small scale, and by few persons. Mr. Stewart had thus been connected

SEYCHELLES, 1899.

with Seychelles at a time when its trade was inconsiderable, and its prospects of attaining its present condition of prosperity were slight. His affection for the islands was very great, and his sanguine expectations as to their future have, in a measure, already been fulfilled.

On Mr. Stewart's departure on leave he was temporarily replaced by Mr. R. M. Brown, Judge of Seychelles, and Senior Member of the Executive Council.

Appointment of E. B. Sweet-Escott, C.M.G. as Administrator.

My appointment as Mr. Stewart's successor was made in August last, and on the 8th November I reached Seychelles, but, owing to small-pox at Mombasa, at which port the British India steamer that carried myself and my family communicated, I did not assume the administration until the 20th November, having first to undergo 11 days' quarantine at the Quarantine Station, Long Island.

Other changes in Establishment.

The only other changes of importance in the Establishment were the transfer of Mr. Banbury, the Treasurer, to Mauritius, as Registrar-General, after 13 years' service in Seychelles, and the appointment as his successor of Mr. Bennett, formerly Treasurer of Sierra Leone.

Imperial Loan for Roads and Survey of Mahé.

83. In the preceding paragraph I have already referred to the programme of road work for developing the resources of Mahé, and for bringing the country districts into communication with the capital. In his Report for 1897, the late Mr. Stewart briefly alluded to the commencement of these works, stating that a loan of £20,000 had been approved, and that the services of a Ceylon engineer had been placed at the disposal of the Government. The original programme of road work, which had been prepared by another engineer from Ceylon, was of a more extensive nature, and would have entailed an expenditure far in excess of this sum of £20,000, the amount fixed for the loan to be made by the Imperial Government. A fair amount of road work was done in 1898, but it was practically confined to improving the road which already existed from Victoria southwards. The attempt to undertake too much work at the same time, the difficulty in obtaining labour, the necessity of sending the engineer in charge of the works to India to recruit labourers, the unsuitability of many of the labourers recruited for the special work, and the want of effective supervision, all had somewhat a disastrous effect as regards the amount, quality, and cost of the work done.

Work done in 1898.

Road Work in 1899.

It was gradually found necessary to restrict the programme to one of a less ambitious nature, and, shortly after the departure, owing to a breakdown in health, of the Superintending Engineer, the number of labourers was greatly reduced, unsuitable and incapable labourers being returned to India, and the services of those only who had shown capacity for road work being retained. The work was then placed under the charge of the Superintendent of Public Works, and has made steady progress since that date.

The improvement in some parts, and reconstruction in others, of the Victoria—Anse Royale Road was continued, the expenditure on this road alone in 1899 being about Rs.32,500. Work on the Anse Royale—Anse Forban Road—consisting of about three-quarters of a mile of deviation work of a heavy nature, and the construction of several chaussèes—was executed at a cost of Rs.72,400, which included the sum of Rs.2,000 paid as compensation for land taken for the road. The Anse Forban-Takamaka Road and the Beau-Vallon-Glacis Road, both to be constructed as 2nd class roads, were also begun.

Survey of Mahé.

84. A special survey of the Island of Mahé by Mr. S. B. Hobbs, Government Surveyor of Mauritius, whose services had been placed at the disposal of the Seychelles Government, was pushed on with vigour during 1898 and 1899, and the cost of the survey, originally estimated at Rs.30,000 (£2,000), has formed a charge against the Imperial loan of £20,000. At the end of 1899 Mr. Hobbs's work was approaching completion, and the map illustrating the work done will prove, when finished and printed, of great value and utility.

Mileage of roads in existence.

85. The mileage of roads in Mahé is given as 64 miles, but in this mileage are included many roads which are not fairly entitled to be so termed. Before, however, road construction from Loan Funds began there were many miles of road on either side of the island, and these roads, of which two completely traversed, and one nearly, Mahè, were very creditable to the Public Works Department.

Classification of roads.

86. Roads are now divided into three classes, (1) 1st class roads, suitable for wheeled traffic in all parts; (2) 2nd class roads, the average width of which is not more than eight feet, and the gradients of which, owing to the hilly nature of the country they traverse, are unsuited to wheeled traffic, but are all that is required by equestrians and pedestrians, and (3) footpaths, which are only suited for foot passengers. A programme of necessary work, which, it is estimated, will take three years more to complete, at an average expenditure of, say, Rs.25,000 a year, has been drawn up and approved, and will be adhered to. When it is completed, comparatively easy communication between the different districts of Mahé and the capital will be established.

Future prospects of Seychelles.

87. It is not easy to foretell the future of Seychelles. At present, depending for its prosperity on practically two industries —the making of cocoanut oil and the cultivation of vanilla—it has attained a higher state of prosperity than at any other stage in its history, and yet many sources of wealth still remain untapped. The establishment of a botanic station will, it is hoped, prove that other products of commercial value are well adapted to Seychelles, and that improved methods of cultivating coffee, cacao, and cocoanuts will largely increase the exports from the islands. Tobacco of an exceptionally good quality grows luxuriantly, and might easily become a valuable export. There is

Necessity of adding to products.

reason to believe that the Central American Rubber tree (*Castilloa Elastica*) will thrive on the high ground of Seychelles, and ultimately secure for planters a steady and safe income.

Fisheries.

88. The Seychelles fisheries are at present undeveloped, and are capable of becoming an important asset. Capital is required to work them properly and systematically, and the necessary legislation for protecting the fisheries and establishing close seasons is now being considered by a committee of experts.

Retail Trade.

89. The shopkeeping trade of Seychelles seems to be passing away from Europeans, or those of European origin, to Asiatics, and especially natives of India, and, as has been seen from the comparative table of imports given in paragraph 15, the value of the imports from India is slightly greater than the value of imports from England. As in Mauritius, so in Seychelles, the Chinese retailer, or consolidated dealer, is ubiquitous.

Rate of wages.

90. An ordinary estate labourer gets from Rs.144 to Rs.192 a year without rations. Domestic labour is somewhat better paid, and can command wages varying from Rs.192 to Rs.240 a year. A few of the best servants can get Rs.25 a month. The wages of carpenters vary from Rs.240 to Rs.380 a year, of masons, from Rs.240 to Rs.400, and of blacksmiths, from Rs.300 to Rs.400. Dock labourers are paid from R.1·25 to Rs.2 a day.

Cost of living.

91. Taking the rupee at its real value of 1*s.* 4*d.*, and not at the fictitious rate of 2*s.*, the cost of living in Seychelles is not on the whole excessive. House rent is not high, though good houses are rare. Moderately good houses can be rented at from Rs.40 to Rs.80 a month. The usual food principally consists of bread, rice, poultry of all kinds, pork, vegetables, and fruit. Turtle can be bought as a rule once a week, and is excellent for soup. Beef also is generally in the market once a week, but is usually tough. Mutton is rarely to be purchased.

Good coffee can be bought in Seychelles at prices ranging from 25 cents to 50 cents the lb., tea at from 75 cents to R.1·50 the lb., and Mauritius sugar at 16 cents the lb. Excellent *vin ordinaire* is sold at from Rs.5 to Rs.6 a dozen, but all spirits, excepting rum, are dear, unless they are of very indifferent quality. Tinned goods of all kinds are also very dear.

On the whole the cost of living is about the same as in England, though food is not of the same nourishing capacity.

Seychelles not suited for white labour.

92. Seychelles is not adapted for white labourers, though Europeans do well as managers of estates, and as owners of property. The extreme healthiness of the climate admits of persons living an outdoor life without the bad effects which are generally caused by exposure in tropical countries.

Openings for Capital.

93. Provided a man has sufficient capital to start a vanilla estate, without mortgaging his land, and can afford to wait for

a return on his outlay, without incurring debts, he can look forward with confidence to an assured income. But he must work himself and see that others work. No culture demands more individual attention than vanilla, and, without the master's eye, labour is apt to be in vain.

Characteristics of the Seychellois.

94. With increasing prosperity, educational requirements should be placed in the foreground of questions demanding an early solution, and there is every reason to hope that, by bringing within the reach of the rising generation opportunities of education which their forefathers were denied, Seychelles will not only take a more prominent position, by reason of its growing wealth, than it has done in the past, but that its inhabitants will show that they can make a worthy use of the many natural gifts with which they have been endowed.

E. B. SWEET ESCOTT,

Administrator.

Government House, Seychelles,

3rd July, 1900.

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1900.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 333.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 301.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1901.

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310	British Honduras	"
311	St. Lucia...	"
312	St. Vincent	"
313	Basutoland	1899–1900
314	Hong Kong	1899
315	Southern Nigeria	1899–1900
316	Grenada	1899
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899–1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas...	"
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2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
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5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896-1900.

No. 333.

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 301.)

ADMINISTRATOR E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Seychelles.

July 15th 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Seychelles Blue Book for the year 1900.

I have, &c.,

E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT,
Administrator.

9873—875—9/1901 Wt 25152 D & S—5

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

1. The revenue of Seychelles for 1900 amounted to Rs. 399,311 65c., and is the largest ever collected in one year.

Expenditure.

2. The expenditure, exclusive of the cost of works defrayed from loan funds, was Rs. 351,919 71c. But, as this sum includes Rs. 55,000, the balance of the debt of Seychelles to Mauritius, which was repaid in April 1900, the ordinary expenditure of the year was only Rs. 296,919 71c., and the ordinary revenue therefore, exceeded the ordinary expenditure by no less than Rs. 102,391 94c., or Rs. 8,507 94c. more than the surplus of revenue over expenditure in 1899.

Revenue and expenditure from 1896 to 1900 compared

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of Seychelles for the last five years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1896	243,802	238,177
1897	296,171	259,056
1898	316,176	276,385
1899	362,791	268,907
1900	399,311	351,919

From the above figures it will be seen that the revenue in 1900 exceeded that collected in 1896, which was the largest, up to that year, ever raised in Seychelles, by Rs. 155,509, and that the total revenue of the last five years exceeded the total expenditure for the same period by Rs. 223,807, or, if the debt of Rs. 55,000 repaid to Mauritius is deducted from the expenditure for last year, by Rs. 278,807, a sum which is greater than the revenue collected in Seychelles in any one year up to and including the year 1896.

Financial separation of Seychelles from Mauritius

4. Up to the year 1871 inclusive, the Seychelles finances were controlled entirely by the Mauritius Government, and its Customs revenue was collected in Mauritius. But the Order in Council of the 22nd April, 1872, which created a Board of Civil Commissioners, with the Chief Civil Commissioner as president, transferred this control, subject to the Governor's instructions, from Mauritius to Seychelles, and the first appropriation law passed in Seychelles under its new constitution, namely Regulation No. 1 of 1872, authorised the expenditure of £10,781 17*s.* 7*d.* from the revenues of the Seychelles Islands for the service of the year 1873. The actual revenue for that year was £12,683 16*s.*, and the actual expenditure £10,231 2*s.*, or £550 15*s.* 7*d.* less than the estimate.

Revenue and expenditure from 1865 to 1895 compared.

5. The accounts of Seychelles were kept in rupees and cents for the first time in 1878. In the following comparative statement, which gives the revenue and expenditure of the islands at intervals of five years from 1865 to 1895, the figures for the years prior to 1878 have been converted into rupees, the rupee being rated, as was done in 1878, at two shillings.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1865	52,268	49,543
1870	75,117	72,177
1875	133,238	126,147
1880	153,053	149,534
1885	143,829	126,356
1890	224,169	219,393
1895	233,282	225,500

Causes of increases of revenue.

6. The rapid growth in the revenue of Seychelles between the years 1870 and 1875 was partly due to the better system of administration in the islands inaugurated by the Order in Council of 1872, and partly to the fact that, prior to the financial separation of Seychelles from Mauritius, Seychelles does not appear to have been credited with the full value of the Customs dues paid in Mauritius on goods imported into Seychelles.

Excess of revenue over expenditure.

7. It is noteworthy that in 36 years the revenue of the Seychelles islands should have increased more than sevenfold; that, in each of the years given in the above table, the revenue exceeded the expenditure; and that this surplus of revenue over expenditure has also been maintained in every year from 1896 to 1900.

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

8. The following table gives a comparative statement of the revenue for the years 1896 to 1900 :—

Details of revenue from 1896 to 1900.

Heads of Receipts.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	123,828	171,368	177,378	219,608 60	229,121 85
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues.	1,760	2,048	1,031	2,883 43	6,408 20
3. Licenses, &c. ...	33,467	35,482	39,490	43,373 89	43,614 43
4. Taxes	33,088	39,475	37,269	42,570 98	45,328 71
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	19,735	23,189	35,992	25,997 95	33,040 79
6. Post Office ...	22,710	15,292	10,520	9,865 98	15,043 85
7. Rents of Government Property.	6,567	5,059	5,666	7,836 00	10,316 06
8. Interest	775	729	688	710 70	2,648 88
9. Miscellaneous ...	1,872	3,529	8,142	9,943 53	13,788 88
Total ...	243,802	296,171	316,176	362,791 06	399,311 65

Increases in revenue explained.

9. The receipts under every head of revenue in 1900 show an increase compared with those of 1899.

The increase under "Customs" was due to the imposition of a Wharfage Duty by Ordinance No. 18 of 1899, which was passed on the 22nd July, 1899, but only brought into operation on the 1st January, 1900. This Ordinance was passed with the special object of raising funds to provide a subsidy for a mail service. From the 1st January to the 7th November, 1900, when the Ordinance was repealed by the new Customs Tariff Ordinance, the total receipts from Wharfage Duties amounted to Rs. 28,030 57c. But from this sum should be deducted Rs. 8,988, which had been levied on coal imported, and which were subsequently refunded, leaving Rs. 19,042 57c. as the net proceeds of the duty. It was originally estimated in 1898 that the annual receipts from Wharfage Duties would amount to Rs. 38,300. In framing the new Customs Tariff Ordinance, the principal object was, by a slight readjustment which would not press hardly on the consumer, to add to the Customs Revenue a sum of Rs. 20,000, so that the repeal of the Wharfage Duty Ordinance might not result in any serious loss of revenue. This object, experience shows, has been fairly attained. The greater amount of shipping calling at Seychelles in 1900, nearly double that of 1899, accounts for the increase in "Pilotage and Harbour Dues," whilst greater vigilance exercised in the collection of "Taxes" is the reason why this source of revenue also shows an increase. Receipts for

"Fees of Court or Office, &c." always have a tendency to fluctuate, but, as in 1898, so in 1900, the greater number of documents registered in the Registration and Mortgage Department is the principal cause of the increase in receipts compared with those of the previous year.

The marked increase shown by the comparative statement given under VIII. "Postal Services" explains the increase in Post Office Revenue, and the investment during the year of surplus revenue, and Savings Bank Funds, which had previously been allowed to lie idle, accounts for the increase in the amount under "Interest."

The greater number of acres of Crown Land now under lease is accountable for the increase in the receipts under "Rents of Government Property, &c.," whilst the larger quantity of guano taken from islands, the property of the Crown, on which a royalty of Rs. 5 a ton is paid, and the sale of Customs seizures and of Customs goods abandoned, are the causes of the increase under the heading "Miscellaneous."

Headings of expenditure in 1899 and 1900 compared.

10. The following table gives a comparative statement of the expenditure for the years 1899 and 1900, arranged under the proper headings :—

Head of Service.	1899.		1900.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	2,680	00	55,525	38
2. Pensions and Gratuities	11,040	65	12,096	40
3. Administrator and Legislature	15,169	23	23,521	67
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	14,116	84	16,348	93
5. Audit Department	3,977	51	3,557	42
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	8,946	28	10,028	49
7. Legal Department	27,438	41	25,815	43
8. Police Department	28,633	68	28,991	14
9. Prison Department	10,563	97	10,026	78
10. Medical, Hospital, and Dispensaries Department.	26,293	21	21,852	04
11. Sanitary and Board of Health	7,145	41	8,258	80
12. Ecclesiastical Department	9,750	80	9,902	98
13. Education Department	15,599	34	15,723	36
14. Printing Department...	2,479	97	3,368	10
15. Post Office Department	6,179	72	6,438	02

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

Comparative Statement of Expenditure for the Years 1899 *and* 1900—cont.

Head of Service.	1899.		1900.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
16. Transport	4,455	32	25	00
17. Crown Lands Department	4,935	47	4,153	55
18. Exchange	4,842	52	4,841	08
19. Miscellaneous	4,384	16	21,418	94
20. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	20,395	17	25,200	31
21. Copyists	689	29	—	
22. Public Works Department	8,157	17	9,212	86
23. Public Works, Recurrent	11,618	11	18,002	39
24. Public Works, Extraordinary	16,110	64	17,610	64
25. Special Votes	3,305	36	—	
Total	268,907	43	351,919	71

Explanation of increases in 1900.

11. The explanation as to the large increase under the heading "Charge on account of Public Debt" has been given in paragraph 2. The amount now annually due under this heading is Rs. 14,816 25c., as stated in paragraph 14, in which reference is made to the Public Debt.

The increase under "Administrator and Legislature" is partly due to salary paid to the late Administrator in 1899, treated as an advance at the time, not having been brought to account until last year, and partly to alterations in the Administrator's Staff, whilst the various increases in the "Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department," in the "Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department," and in the "Printing Department" are due to higher rates of salaries being authorised during the year. The vote for "Miscellaneous" was swollen by a refund, as explained in paragraph 9, of Rs. 8,988, being the Wharfage Duty paid on coal imported, prior to coal being added to the list of articles exempted from such duty, and by charges connected with the export of surplus funds for investment, bills being at the time unobtainable.

Extensive repairs, not originally anticipated, in public buildings and public roads were the cause of the expenditure in 1900 under "Public Works, Recurrent" exceeding that of 1899 under the same heading.

12. Changes in taxation were effected by the Local Rate Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance, and the Customs Consolidated Tariff Ordinance, the principal points of which are given under heading III. "Legislation."

Changes in taxation.

The former introduced no new system of taxation, but equalised rates of direct taxation; the latter simplified the Customs tariff, and abolished wharfage duties and all export duties save that of R. 1 a ton on guano.

13. On the 31st December, 1900, the assets of Seychelles exceeded its liabilities by Rs. 258,361 84c., a sum greater than the total revenue of the islands for any year up to and including 1896. Of the assets, Rs. 168,702 36c. have been invested on account of general revenue, and Rs. 70,556 12c. on account of savings bank deposits. In addition to the cash balances in the local Treasury Chests, in the hands of the Crown Agents, and Messrs. Grindlay, Groom & Co., Bombay, amounting altogether to Rs. 91,870 42c., the value of remittances in transit to the Crown Agents was no less than Rs. 56,755.

Assets and liabilities.

14. The Public Debt of Seychelles consists only of the loan of £20,000 from the Imperial Treasury, under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and Seychelles Ordinance No. 1 of 1900, for the construction of new roads in and for the survey of the Island of Mahé. It is repayable in 30 years from the 26th April, 1900, the date on which the loan was actually made, by means of annual payments of £987 15*s.* 0*d.*, that is Rs. 14,816 25c., which represent an annuity of principal and interest combined, at the rate of £49 7*s.* 9*d.* per annum for every thousand pounds borrowed. The balance of the debt due to Mauritius, namely Rs. 55,000, was repaid in April 1900.

Public Debt.

15. With an excess of Rs. 102,391 94c. of revenue over expenditure for 1900, with investments amounting to Rs. 239,258 48c. and with remittances in transit to the Crown Agents on the 31st December, 1900, to the value of Rs. 56,755, it is not unreasonable that the Seychelles government should regard with satisfaction the financial transactions of the past year.

Financial results of 1900.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

16. The value of imports in 1900 amounted to Rs. 980,911, being less by Rs. 3,755 than the value of imports in 1899, and the value of exports was Rs. 1,036,161, being less by Rs. 817,201 than their value in 1899.

1899 and 1900 compared.

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

Causes of decrease in exports.

17. The decrease in the value of exports is almost entirely attributable to the small vanilla crop of 1899–1900, only 17,569 kilos. of vanilla, valued at Rs. 580,877, having been exported last year, as against 41,835 kilos. exported in 1899 and valued at Rs. 1,338,720, the difference in values being Rs. 757,843, or Rs. 59,358 less than the difference in the value of exports for the years 1899 and 1900.

The value of cocoanut oil exported in 1900 was less by Rs. 124,046 than the value of the oil exported in 1899, but other exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, show an increase of Rs. 64,688 over the exports for 1899, from which vanilla and cocoanut oil are also excluded.

—	Value.
	Rs.
Total value of exports in 1899 ...	1,853,362
Total value of vanilla and cocoanut oil exported in 1899.	1,730,775
Value of exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, in 1899.	122,587
Total value of exports in 1900 ...	1,036,161
Total value of vanilla and cocoanut oil exported in 1900.	848,886
Value of exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, in 1900.	187,275
Value of exports, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil, in 1899.	122,587
Balance in favour of exports in 1900, excluding vanilla and cocoanut oil.	64,688

Vanilla must always be a capricious source of revenue, though in a series of good years it will be found to yield a handsome profit.

The cause of the falling off in the quantity of cocoanut oil is more difficult to explain, and as will be seen later on, India took less cocoanut oil from Seychelles in 1900, to the value of Rs. 167,468, than it did in 1899. The value of cocoanut oil exported to other countries shows an increase of Rs. 43,691 in 1900 as compared with 1899.

No doubt a greater quantity of cocoanut oil was employed in the manufacture of soap, the value of the export of which increased last year by Rs. 5,448, whilst the value of soap imported decreased by Rs. 14,854, this decrease probably showing that locally made soap was more generally used in the Seychelles islands, but it is more likely that the falling off is to be attributed partly to shortage of labour, and partly to the growing tendency of planters and persons engaged in agriculture to devote more attention to the culture of vanilla.

18. The following table gives the total values of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last five years :—

Comparative table of imports and exports, 1896–1900.

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1896	710,359	975,079	1,535,895	1,569,912
1897	942,017	1,222,411	1,503,701	1,567,295
1898	889,041	1,009,640	1,278,382	1,381,514
1899	984,666	1,041,890	1,853,362	1,897,662
1900	980,911	1,000,911	1,036,161	1,052,211

Comparative table of principal imports, 1899, 1900.

19. The following table gives a comparative statement of the value of the principal articles imported in 1899 and 1900, and the countries of origin :—

—	United Kingdom.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coal	75,450	126,384	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	—	—	15,748	18,384	—	992	200	—
Cotton Goods	69,699	69,590	6,895	3,049	71,379	23,486	—	2,115	2,397	17
Flour	45	9	232	—	24,645	19,595	1	16	—	180
Haberdashery and millinery	26,302	25,159	27,003	29,549	15,582	12,366	598	605	1,023	37
Iron goods	24,847	28,833	2,164	1,955	4,275	3,055	412	2,330	205	60
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	8,295	8,053	3,342	2,043	2,045	2,442	113	4,771	605	10
Leather boots and shoes	6,418	5,886	3,883	1,301	2,171	2,941	533	359	344	—
Provisions	20,052	7,940	2,422	631	1,105	1,573	718	842	141	—
Rice	—	—	—	—	131,454	179,821	19,480	22,984	—	4
Soap	1,500	437	1,957	2,518	16,261	1,823	—	104	—	—
Spirits of all kinds	11,183	10,714	14,507	19,000	45	20	21,701	15,706	60	—
Sugar	—	—	—	—	1,906	—	40,435	44,182	—	—
Wine of all kinds	52	29	61,716	59,262	—	300	—	1,690	205	—

It will be seen that Seychelles draws its coal supply entirely from the United Kingdom, as well as the greater part of its cotton and iron goods, lamps, hardware and cutlery, leather boots and shoes, and what are termed "provisions"; that more haberdashery and millinery come from France than from the United Kingdom; that France supplies the greatest quantity of spirits of all kinds, Mauritius, which furnishes the rum, the usual drink of the labouring classes, being second, and the United Kingdom third; and that practically all the wine drunk, principally consisting of red wine in casks, comes from France.

The imports from India are principally coffee, cotton goods, flour, haberdashery and millinery, and, above all, rice, whilst the chief contributions from Mauritius are rice, rum, and sugar.

Comparative table of imports from principal countries, 1896–1900.

20. The value of imports during the last five years from the countries from which Seychelles principally draws its supplies is given in the following table:—

Country.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	173,486	248,798	136,550	323,406	359,862
France	61,461	104,519	131,496	177,619	152,532
India	209,652	235,144	317,123	334,693	316,112
Mauritius ...	123,353	127,661	137,802	123,641	153,363

Comparative table of principal exports, 1899-1900.

21. The following comparative table gives the value of the principal exports of Seychelles, showing the chief countries to which they were exported, for the last two years.

—	United Kingdom.		France.		India.		Mauritius.		Zanzibar.		Nossi-Bé.		Réunion.	
	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cocoanuts	—	—	16	—	10,006	1,570	6,953	23,282	116	—	840	685	536	1,763
Cocoa	3,159	5,477	1,561	—	329	—	—	30	—	—	—	—	—	—
Guano	8,300	—	—	—	—	—	9,850	21,895	—	—	—	—	1,250	2,814
Oil (cocoanut) ...	—	6	—	—	257,288	89,820	85,400	117,012	—	1,965	43,892	52,919	800	1,881
Salted fish	—	—	—	—	281	—	1,995	2,228	—	150	—	—	—	1,864
Soap	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28,998	33,486	1,332	1,242	—	1,050
Tortoise shell ...	21,664	7,682	5,600	17,101	1,600	100	—	4,850	1,995	—	—	—	—	—
Vanilla	873,728	423,243	464,992	155,907	—	—	—	900	—	—	—	—	—	—

In 1900, guano of the value of Rs. 15,400 was exported to Antwerp, and of the value of Rs. 2,050 to Durban. The value of the vanilla exported to seven other countries besides the United Kingdom, France, and Mauritius, was Rs. 1,725.

22. The principal countries to which Seychelles sends its produce are the United Kingdom, France, India, and Mauritius, and the following table shows the comparative value of exports to these countries for the last five years :—

Total value of principal exports, 1896–1900.

Value of Exports to the United Kingdom, France, India, and Mauritius, from 1896 *to* 1900.

Country.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	704,508	637,906	505,505	907,142	437,756
France	213,915	348,330	290,958	472,314	173,124
India	384,989	264,605	234,711	271,997	110,121
Mauritius ...	114,645	152,579	157,094	107,919	177,843

Besides these countries and six other countries to which goods of small amount were sent, Aden took goods to the value of Rs. 8,348, Holland to the value of Rs. 15,418, Mombasa to the value of Rs. 3,705, Natal to the value of Rs. 2,230, Nossi-Bé to the value of Rs. 55,060, Réunion to the value of Rs. 14,020, and Zanzibar to the value of Rs. 37,284. The exports to Holland and Natal consisted almost exclusively of guano, and those to Nossi-Bé of cocoanut oil and soap.

(B.) Manufactures and Fisheries.

Soap manufactories.

23. There are five soap manufactories in operation in Seychelles, and the value of soap exported, which was Rs.56,923 in 1898, and fell to Rs. 30,562 in 1899, rose last year to Rs. 36,010.

Mineral waters and ice.

24. There are also six mineral water factories and one ice factory, and vessels calling at Seychelles can be supplied with mineral waters and ice at moderate prices.

Coprah and cocoanut oil.

25. Coprah, and, as stated under the following heading, cocoanut oil, are manufactured on a considerable scale, and nearly every cocoanut estate is provided with its own drying sheds and oil mills.

Vanilla curing houses.

26. Vanilla curing houses, now generally built in masonry, are found on almost every vanilla estate of over 50 acres.

Fisheries.

27. The fisheries of Seychelles are as yet in their infant stage, notwithstanding that hundreds of small boats, and many luggers and schooners of 20 tons and under, are employed in connection with them.

Proposed Fisheries Ordinance.

28. A bill will probably be passed during the current year, under which the fisheries will be properly protected, and in a short time there should be a great increase in the export of salt fish. Calipee, beche-de-mer, tortoise-shell and pearl shell are

exported, and the pearl shell fisheries still await further exploitation.

It is unlikely that Seychelles will ever become in the ordinary sense of the term a manufacturing country, but in the preparation of vanilla, coffee, cacao and tobacco, the extraction of cocoanut oil, the manufacture of aloe fibre and lime juice, the making of preserves and pickles, the extension of its fruit industry, and the development of its fisheries, it affords full scope for the active exercise of the abilities and energies of its inhabitants.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

Number and area of Seychelles Islands.

Seychelles Group.

Amirantes Group.

Alphonse Group.

Aldabra Group.

Cosmoledo Group.

29. Before referring to the agricultural industries of the Seychelles islands, and to the possibilities of their extension, a few words respecting the number of these islands and their area may not be out of place. In addition to 36 islands, forming what is called the Seychelles group, and including the principal island Mahé, the capital of which is Victoria, there are several groups of islands which are termed the dependencies of Seychelles, namely, the Amirantes group, composed of 17 named islands; the Alphonse group of three islands, Alphonse, Bijoutier, and St. François; the islands of St. Pierre, Providence, and the South Banks; the Aldabra group, of which the principal islands are Aldabra proper (the original home of the gigantic land tortoise), Picard, Polymnie and Malabar, besides several small islets; the Cosmoledo group, consisting of Menai Island, Wizard Island, two North East Islands, Isle du trou, Göelette, Polyte, West Pagoda Island, and South West Island; and the islands of Assumption and Astove. It will thus be seen that there are no less than 74 islands included in the Seychelles Government. The total estimated area of all these islands is 148¼ square miles, of which Mahé is 55½ square miles in size, the Aldabra group, with Cosmoledo, Astove, and Assumption, 51½ square miles, and the Amirantes four square miles.

The twelve largest islands of the Seychelles group, estimated in acres, are :—

Island.	Acres.	Island.	Acres.
Mahé	35,520	Praslin	9,700
Silhouette	4,900	La Digue	2,500
Curieuse	900	Felicité	800
North Island	525	St. Anne...	500
Denis Island	340	Cerf Island	290
Frigate Island	275	Bird or Sea Cow Island	160

Islands belonging to the Crown.

30. The Aldabra and Cosmoledo groups of islands, including Astove and Assumption, the islands of Remire or Eagle, African Banks, Des Neufs, L'Etoile, Marie Louise, Boudeuse, and King Ross or King Rose of the Amirantes group, St. Pierre, Curieuse, Felicité, Round Island near Praslin, Long Island near Mahé, and a few small islets are the property of the Crown.

With the exception of some 900 acres of land in Mahé and Praslin, of which the greater part is now leased, all the rest of the land included within the Seychelles islands and dependencies is private property. The Aldabra islands, and those of the Amirantes which belong to the Crown, and the islands of St. Pierre, Curieuse and Felicité are leased. Round Island, near Praslin, which is 41 acres in extent, is reserved for leper and pauper establishments, and at Long Island near Mahé is the principal quarantine station. It will thus be seen that the development of the great natural resources of Seychelles depends on the energy and skill of private landowners, and that the Government in establishing under the management of a competent agronomic chemist, a botanic station, where scientific experiments in different plants and soils can be made, and which will be specially valuable as a receiving station and nursery for plants, trees, &c., to be introduced from other colonies and foreign countries, is doing all that is practicable to assist planters and landowners in their work.

Products of Seychelles.

31. There are not sufficient available data on which to base an accurate estimate of the acreage of land under each crop, but the suitability of the soil for almost every tropical product is shewn by the fact that, in addition to cocoanuts and vanilla, which are the main sources of the present prosperity of Seychelles, and are practically cultivated in all districts where the soil admits of their cultivation, coffee, both Liberian and Arabian, cloves, tobacco, sugar cane, cocos-de-mer, cacao, tea, cassava, sweet potatoes, maize, tomatoes and other vegetables, yield excellent crops on well selected lands.

All kinds of tropical fruits are readily produced, for example, mangoes, bananas, pineapples, orange citron, lemons, limes, bitter oranges, the last named admirably adapted for conversion into marmalade, Seychelles plums, custard apples, avoca pears, bread fruit, &c. The manufacture of lime juice might easily become a valuable industry and there is no reason why tobacco should not be cultivated on a large scale.

Vanilla.

32. Although in 1900 the amount of vanilla exported was 17,569 kilograms, it is possible that the actual crop of last year did not exceed 12,000 kilograms, some of the vanilla of 1899 being included in the shipments of 1900. The vanilla crop for the current year promised at the end of last year to be an exceptionally fine one, and, notwithstanding losses owing to continued rain, the output for 1901 will probably be the largest on record.

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

The preparation of vanilla has much improved of late years. Nearly all vanilla is cured in well constructed drying rooms, heated with hot air, instead of being left to dry in the sun. Large preparers of vanilla are now building houses of two stories in which the whole process of preparation, from steaming the green pods to packing the prepared vanilla, is carried out. In 1900 prepared vanilla sold at Rs. 12 to Rs. 20 per lb. In the Blue Book Report for 1899 (pages 24 and 25) hints were given as to vanilla cultivation, and it is unnecessary for me to repeat them now. I venture to refer to these remarks anyone who may think of embarking on vanilla planting in Seychelles, and also to an excellent treatise on the subject by Mr. S. J. Galbraith, who was for some years one of the most experienced and successful planters in Seychelles. This treatise has been published by the Department of Agriculture (Division of Botany) of the United States of America.

Cocoanuts.

33. It is estimated that in 1900 no less than 17,400,000 cocoanuts were gathered, of which 12,500,000 were approximately made into oil, 1,020,000 were exported, 1,600,000 were used in the manufacture of soap, and 2,280,000 were consumed locally and used for planting.

Cocoanut oil.

34. No European machinery is used in the manufacture of cocoanut oil, and no improvements were made in the methods of extracting oil, which, primitive though they seem, are very effective. The price of oil in 1900 was 96 cents the gallon.

Coffee.

35. Many coffee-husking machines for hand power have been made locally. European machinery is used on the Cascade and Mamelles Estates, and has proved successful in husking and cleaning berries. Probably as good Liberian coffee grows in all parts of Seychelles as in any country in the world. The trees yield abundantly and the berries are exceptionally fine. But the present price is unremunerative to the planter, being only Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 the 100 lbs. It is possible that if a central factory could be established to complete the final process of sorting and preparing for the market the coffee berries, better prices could be obtained, and Seychelles coffee would become favourably known in Europe.

(D.) GRANTS OF LAND.

Small extent of Crown Land in Seychelles.

36. With the exception of the Aldabra and Amirantes groups of islands, the Islands of Curieuse and Felicité, Round Island near Praslin, and Long Island near Mahé, which is used as a quarantine station, the Crown, as pointed out under "Agricultural Industries," possesses only some 900 acres of land situated chiefly in the hills of Mahé and Praslin. Every acre of land in Mahé has, at one time or another, been conceded, and the majority of the concessions date back to a period prior to that of the capture of the Island in 1794. After its occupation by the English these concessions were confirmed. At later dates, for various reasons,

some of the lands reverted to the Crown. There are no "Pas Géometriques" in Seychelles as there are in Mauritius, and the Crown has retained only foreshore rights.

Exchange of land at Praslin.

37. Owing to the difficulty of purchasing land at Baie Ste. Anne, Praslin, where the Government had decided to station the Medical Officer and Justice of the Peace for the district of Praslin, which includes the Islands of Curieuse, La Digue, Felicité, Marianne, Mamelles, Aride, &c., nearly five acres of Crown land at Fond Boffay, which lies at the back of Baie Ste. Anne, were exchanged with the Roman Catholic Mission for a similar amount of land near the village. The Crown now possesses at Baie Ste. Anne a sufficiently large piece of land for all Government buildings required there. The Government is much indebted to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Victoria for his ready co-operation in this matter.

Concession of Crown Land at La Digue

38. A grant of Crown land in the centre of La Digue, for which the Government received an annual rent of Rs. 60, was made to the lessee of this land and of Round Island, which is 41 acres in size, so as to induce him to abandon the unexpired portion of his lease of Round Island, and to concede to the Government an acre of land near the sea shore at La Digue, and in the most central part of the village on that Island. The object of this transaction was to enable the Government to remove the Leper Asylum and Pauper Camp to Round Island from Curieuse Island, so that the latter Island, which belongs to the Crown and is the fifth largest in size of the Seychelles group, might be made more productive. As the Crown possessed no land in the populous part of La Digue, it was also desired to acquire a sufficiently large piece of ground for the Government buildings, including a police station, which it is hoped to construct there within a short time.

Crown Lands Department.

39. The Crown Lands Department was formerly under the charge of a separate officer called "Conservator of Crown Lands," but for several years the duties of Conservator have been entrusted to the Superintendent of Public Works. The Crown Lands Department has now been finally merged in the Public Works Department, and the head, who is styled "Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys," has been given an assistant, who must be a sworn land surveyor.

The total cost, including all charges, of the Crown Lands Department in 1900 was Rs. 4,193 12c., and the total receipts including royalties (Rs. 7,814) paid on guano extracted from the Amirantes Islands and Cosmoledo, moneys (Rs. 3,628 55c.) received by the sale of cocoanuts, cocos-de-mer, vanilla, tortoise-shell, timber, &c., and rents (Rs. 10,316 06c.) from Crown Lands and Buildings, amounted to Rs. 21,758 61c., or Rs. 17,565 49c. in excess of the cost of the Department. In 1899 the cost of the Department was Rs. 4,951 and the receipts Rs. 14,805, showing a net gain of Rs. 9,854.

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

There has been a falling off in the produce from Crown lands in 1900, due both to the crop of vanilla in 1900 being smaller than that of 1899, and to more Crown lands being leased, but rents have increased by Rs. 2,539 06c., and receipts from royalties on guano by Rs. 5,314.

(E.) SHIPPING.

Comparative tables of shipping.

40. The following four tables show the number, tonnage and nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the last two years :—

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1899 ...	11	982	4	331	—	—	4	1,254	19	2,567
1900 ...	16	2,136	4	321	1	1,234	4	2,424	25	6,115

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1899 ...	10	896	4	331	—	—	3	992	17	2,219
1900 ...	16	2,125	4	321	1	1,234	5	2,686	26	6,336

(3.) *Steamers Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Dutch.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1899 ...	35	61,943	1	2,000	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	1	7,000	45	93,696
1900 ...	70	138,086	1	3,149	1	1,120	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	1	7,900	75	152,455

(4.) *Steamers Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Dutch.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1899 ..	35	61,943	1	2,000	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	1	7,000	45	93,696
1900 ...	70	138,086	1	3,149	1	1,120	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	1	7,900	75	152,455

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

Increase in shipping explained.

41. From the above tables (1) and (2), it will be seen that the total tonnage of sailing vessels entered and cleared in 1900, exceeded by 7,665 tons the total tonnage entered and cleared in 1899, and from tables (3) and (4) that the total tonnage of steamers entered and cleared in 1900 exceeded by 117,518 tons the total tonnage entered and cleared in 1899. This increase in steam shipping is due to the greater number of men-of-war and steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company calling at Seychelles, and to several transports having put in at Port Victoria, on their way to and from South Africa.

42. The following tables give comparative statements of men-of-war entered at Seychelles during the last five years, and of the total shipping inwards and outwards for the same period :—

Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles from 1896–1900.

Year.	British.			French.			German.			Portuguese.			Austrian.			Dutch.			Italian.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1896 ...	7	14,934	72	—	—	—	1	1,642	11	1	729	4	1	1,370	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,675
1897 ...	6	15,870	64	1	650	6	2	3,292	19	1	729	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,541
1898 ...	5	10,890	48	4	2,223	16	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,763
1899 ...	5	9,871	30	1	2,000	4	4	14,583	78	1	2,993	2	1	2,440	10	1	7,000	12	1	1,399	4	40,292
1900 ...	10	27,631	79	1	3,149	14	1	1,120	13	1	1,800	12	—	—	—	1	7,900	8	1	400	4	42,000
Totals ...	33	79,196	293	7	8,022	40	9	22,293	121	4	6,251	22	2	3,810	19	2	14,900	20	2	1,799	8	136,271

Comparative Statement of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards from 1896–1900.

Year.	—	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Austrian.		Portuguese.		Norwegian.		Dutch.		Totals.	
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1896	Inwards	60	65,253	7	28,291	1	1,642	—	—	1	1,370	1	729	1	329	1	803	72	98,417
	Outwards	60	65,253	7	28,291	1	1,642	—	—	1	1,370	1	729	1	329	—	—	72	97,614
1897	Inwards	56	65,141	1	650	2	3,292	—	—	—	—	1	729	1	1,404	—	—	61	71,216
	Outwards	52	61,149	1	650	2	3,292	—	—	—	—	1	729	—	—	1	803	56	65,219
1898	Inwards	49	60,530	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	65,283
	Outwards	54	64,766	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1,404	—	—	64	71,023
1899	Inwards	46	62,925	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	4	1,254	1	7,000	64	96,263
	Outwards	45	62,839	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	1	2,400	1	2,993	3	992	1	7,000	62	95,915
1900	Inwards	86	140,222	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	4	2,424	1	7,900	100	158,570
	Outwards	86	140,211	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	5	2,686	1	7,900	101	158,821

Port Department.

43. The harbour of Victoria is under the charge of a port officer, who is provided with an assistant, the latter being also the government pilot. There are eight permanent boatmen, and on mail days, and at other times of pressure extra men are engaged. In addition to the cutter "Wave" of 7½ tons, which is engaged on going to the islands within a radius of 55 miles, the port department has six whaleboats belonging to it, including two galleys used by the Administrator. The "Wave" and whaleboats were in constant use in 1900. The "Wave" made 40 voyages to the outlying islands, sailed 4,148 miles, was absent from Mahé 134 days, conveyed 341 passengers, and carried some 190 tons of cargo. The whaleboats were requisitioned for service on 435 occasions, and travelled in all 2,647 miles.

Sailing Yacht and steam launch required

44. The Government has no vessel large enough for a voyage to the Aldabra group of islands, which are between 600 and 700 miles distant from Mahé, or even to the Amirantes some 150 miles away, both of which groups are dependencies of Seychelles, and voyages to those islands which are not more than 25 or 30 miles away, like Praslin, La Digue, and Silhouette, are at present attended by some danger, and, during the light north westerly winds, by great delay; a distance of 25 miles sometimes taking two and even three days. For the proper administration of the islands, and to enable them to be constantly visited and inspected, a good sea-going steam launch, which would also serve for harbour work is essential, and a fast sailing cutter of some 60 or 70 tons, capable of going in safety and in a reasonable time to the Aldabra and Amirantes groups, and to the other outlying islands of the Archipelago.

Lighthouses.

45. There are two lighthouses in Seychelles. one in the harbour at Victoria, and the other at Denis island 55 miles north of Mahé. Both are constantly visited and are kept in good order.

Beacons, buoys, &c.

The harbour is well marked by beacons and buoys, and vessels have no difficulty in entering at any time. A good supply of fresh water is brought to the end of the short or Hodoul pier; 752 tons of water were taken by ships during last year.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Classification of Ordinances.

46. During the year 1900, 22 [illegible]ngs of the Legislative Council were held, and 32 Ordinan[illegible]passed. Of this number 15 Ordinances were of a general and financial nature, and concerned the interests of all classes; nine related exclusively to the Civil Service and the administration of the Government; three were passed by the instructions of the Secretary of State,

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and included the West Africa Political Prisoners Ordinance, which gave the Administrator the necessary powers for detaining within the Seychelles islands, ex-kings Prempeh and Asibi of Ashanti and their chiefs and followers; two effected slight amendments in Ordinances passed in 1899, and three were of a purely judicial nature, repealing certain provisions of the penal code, (Ordinance No. 6 of 1838), and amending the law of divorce.

Of the 15 Ordinances of a general character the following are the most important:—

The Post Office Amendment Ordinance, which authorised the establishment of an internal postal service in Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue, and when practicable, the other outlying islands of the archipelago, and gave the Administrator in executive council the power to frame regulations for the creation of branch post offices, and for other purposes connected with the effective working of a local post.

The Local Rate Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance, which substituted one law for 14 previous enactments, equalised the rates of direct internal taxation, so far as all classes are concerned, and substituted for a cumbrous and ineffective system of rating incomes and properties one that is effective and simple.

The system of taxation by means of a local rate really dates back to 1863, when, by Mauritius Ordinance No. 43 of that year, a labour or commutation tax was imposed on persons living in the Seychelles islands. The object of this tax is given in the preamble to the Ordinance which is worth quoting:—"WHEREAS the Island of Mahé, in the Seychelles group, contains many valuable resources, which if properly developed, would raise that dependency from the condition of prostration in which it has been for some time past, to a state of comparative prosperity; AND WHEREAS it is essential to the development of such resources that communications should be opened up between the interior of the said Island, and Port Victoria, by means of Public Roads and bridges constructed and kept in repair on an organized system as hereinafter provided." By this Ordinance so many days' labour were required to be given in proportion to income, but the labour might be commuted at the rate of eight pence sterling for each day's labour. This Ordinance remained in force for 10 years, and at the end of this period it was repealed by Seychelles Regulation No 3 of 1873, which imposed a "Local Rate," labour not being allowed in lieu of payment. This Regulation was itself repealed by Regulation No. 7 of 1874, which was in turn repealed by Regulation No. 4 of 1875, and this last Regulation, with certain amendments introduced by subsequent legislation, remained in force until repealed by Ordinance No. 16 of 1900. Under Regulation No. 4 of 1875, there were nine classes under which persons were liable to be taxed, and these classes were so arranged that the smaller the income the larger the proportion of local rate for which a person became liable. For example, a person in receipt of an income of not less than £100 (Rs. 1,000) paid

£1 (Rs. 10), that is 1 per cent. A person whose income was under £100 (Rs. 1,000) and not less than £50 (Rs. 500) paid £1 (Rs. 10) for the £50, that is at the rate of 2 per cent., and 2*d.* additional for every £1 over £50, whilst a labourer, whose income might be only £12 (Rs. 120) a year, paid 8*s.* (Rs. 4), that is 3 per cent. Under the Ordinance of 1900 the classes under which persons have to pay local rate have been reduced from nine to the four following :—

Class.	Description.	Rate.
Class 1 ...	Every owner of immoveable property within the limits of the central district *i.e.*, town of Victoria.	Rate not to exceed 6 per cent. on the annual locative value.
Class 2 ...	Every owner of immoveable property within the limits of any of the other districts.	Rate not to exceed 4 per cent. on the annual locative value.
Class 3 ...	Every person deriving from whatever source or sources, an annual income of not less than 240 rupees.	Rate not to exceed 2 per cent. on such income.
Class 4 ...	Every male between the age of 15 and 55 (school boys excepted) not included in any of the previous classes.	Rate not to exceed Rs. 4.

The rates are to be fixed annually by the Administrator, with the advice and consent of the Legislature, and for the year ended the 31st March, 1901, they have been fixed as follows :—

Class 1	...	...	...	4 per cent.
Class 2	...	...	...	3 „
Class 3	...	...	...	1½ „
Class 4	...	...	...	Rs. 3.

The rates under classes 1 and 2 hold good for three years, that is up to the 31st March, 1903.

The Quarantine Amendment Ordinance. This Ordinance remedied defects in the principal Consolidating Quarantine Ordinance No. 27 of 1899, establishing a Quarantine Committee of five members entirely distinct from the Board of Health, and reduced from twelve to ten days the period of quarantine for plague, and from seven to five days the period of quarantine for cholera. Suitable Quarantine Regulations have been framed under this Ordinance, and the restrictions, which for many years hampered the movements of ships calling at Seychelles, have been removed.

The Customs Consolidated Tariff Ordinance effected a readjustment of the duties chargeable on imports; substituted

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23 classes of goods on which specific duties are paid for 45 classes under Regulation No. 6 of 1888; repealed two Ordinances of 1893, imposing an increase of 30 per cent. on duties on all goods except certain foodstuffs; abolished all export duties save that of R. 1 a ton on guano; repealed the Wharfage Duties Ordinance of 1899, which had proved to be both irksome and unremunerative, and imposed an *ad valorem* duty of 15 per cent. on all goods not included in the list of specifically rated articles. Seeing that for Customs purposes the rupee is still reckoned at 2*s.* instead of at its true value of 1*s.* 4*d.*, the *ad valorem* duty in the case of all goods coming from countries where a gold standard of currency prevails is, in fact, only 10 per cent.

The Education Ordinance is discussed in the following paragraph, and the only other Ordinance to which special reference need be made is "The Board of Health Ordinance." This Ordinance, which replaces two Regulations of the Board of Civil Commissioners, three Ordinances of the Legislative Council, and one Proclamation, is a measure of great importance. Under it the Administrator in Executive Council becomes the Central Board of Health, and the Administrator is authorised to create Local Boards of Health, with well defined powers, in the various districts of the Seychelles Islands. The duties of Local Boards of Health are those usually entrusted to similar bodies in other Colonies, with the addition of some of the duties and powers which are generally assigned to District Boards and semi-municipal bodies. The Local Boards have no power to levy taxes, but, as in the case of the first Local Board of Health constituted under the Ordinance, namely the Local Board of Health for the town of Victoria, certain sources of revenue are placed at their disposal by order of the Administrator in Executive Council, so that they are enabled to undertake services and become an Executive body instead of merely an advisory body as was the Board of Health which existed by virtue of previous legislation.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Education Ordinance, 1900.

47. The new Education Ordinance, passed in November, 1900, will exercise an important influence on the course of education throughout the Seychelles Islands. Under this Ordinance the Administrator in Executive Council has taken the place of the Legislative Council as the Board of Education, and is vested with the power of deciding on all educational matters, whilst an Education Committee, composed of three ex-officio members, of

four members chosen by the Administrator, two of whom may be the Roman Catholic Bishop of Victoria and the Church of England Civil Chaplain, of two members nominated by the Bishop, and of one nominated by the Civil Chaplain, is empowered to advise on all questions connected with the education of youth. The Government Undenominational School has become the Victoria School and has been divided into two branches up to and including the 4th Standard; (1) the paying branch and (2) the non-paying branch, but the course of instruction in both branches is the same with the exception that there are only two classes in the former and four in the latter branch. From the 5th Standard upwards fees must be paid by all pupils.

Exhibitions.

Provision is made in the new rules, which have been framed to regulate the course of instruction in the Victoria School, for the award of two exhibitions every year to the best pupils in the 4th Standard, entitling the holders to free tuition and free books in the higher Standards, so that boys who have shown promise in the 4th Standard need not be prevented, by inability to pay school fees, from continuing their school career. But perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the new Ordinance is the provision for an annual examination, open to all boys in Seychelles who satisfy the conditions laid down in the Regulations, according to the result of which the two best boys will be awarded scholarships of the value of Rs. 600 a year each, tenable for three years, and will be able to pursue their studies at the Royal College in Mauritius or in some school in England to be approved of by the Administrator. The first examination for these scholarships will be held in July, 1902.

Annual scholarships.

English the medium of instruction

48. English has now been made the most important subject in the Victoria School curriculum, and the example of the Royal College, Mauritius, has been followed in making it the medium of instruction in all classes. Adequate provision has been made for improving primary education in grant-aided schools, and a new Code is under consideration.

Grant-aided schools—Number and distribution.

49. The number of grant-aided denominational primary schools in 1900 was 25, 19 being under the management of the Roman Catholic Mission and six under that of the Church of England. In addition, there were two other Roman Catholic schools which, for want of certificated teachers, could not be recognised by the Board of Education as grant-aided schools.

Other schools.

Besides the grant-aided schools, there were (1) the St. Louis college (paying section), with 115 pupils on the roll and 102 in average attendance, and, as mentioned above, the Victoria school with 113 pupils on the roll and 79 in average attendance.

Results of school year.

St. Louis College.

As usual, excellent work was done during the year by the St. Louis Roman Catholic college under the Frères Maristes, and satisfactory results obtained at the last examination, 122 boys having passed out of 160 presented for examination.

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The results at the Convent school for girls were not quite so satisfactory as they were in 1899, 112 girls only having passed out of 176 presented for examination, but the standard required by the examiner was higher in the case of all schools than in 1899.

Convent School, Victoria.

Victoria School.

At the Victoria school the results were also fairly good, 53 pupils successfully passing in their respective standards out of 76 examined.

St. Paul's Church of England School, Victoria.

A fair percentage of passes was secured by St. Paul's (Church of England) mixed school in Victoria, 39 children satisfying the examiners out of 59 presented for examination.

Country schools specially mentioned.

Of the schools outside Victoria, the best results were obtained at the annual examination by the Roman Catholic schools at Anse aux Pins (girls), Anse Boileau (girls), and Baie Lazare (boys), and by St. Matthew's (Church of England) mixed school at Praslin.

At the St. Louis Roman Catholic college and at the Victoria school, secondary education is given in the higher classes, which are affiliated to the Royal college, Mauritius.

Grant-in-Aid.

50. The grant-in-aid to schools, which was increased from Rs.6,000 to Rs.8,000 in 1890, and from Rs.8,000 to Rs.10,000 in 1898, has been raised for the current year to Rs.12,000.

Comparative statement of schools, 1896-1900

51. In the following table is given a comparative statement for the last five years, shewing the number of Roman Catholic and Church of England schools, the number of pupils on the roll and in average attendance, and the amount of grants earned. Similar information under the three first headings is given respecting the Victoria school :—

—	Roman Catholic.					Church of England.					Victoria School.				
	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
No of schools	19	20	21	21	21	7	7	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	1
No. of pupils on roll	1,680	1,824	1,967	2,129	2,247	458	428	376	374	348	76	80	84	106	113
No. of pupils in average attendance	1,259	1,345	1,488	1,619	1,717	291	303	241	259	241	58	58	62	76	79
Grant earned	Rs. 6,470	Rs. 6,343	Rs. 8,371	Rs. 8,450	Rs. 8,451	Rs. 1,529	Rs. 1,656	Rs. 1,628	Rs. 1,549	Rs. 1,548	NOTE.—The cost of this school is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff now consists of a head master, two assistant masters, and four pupil teachers.				

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Progress of education from 1874 to 1900.

52. The following table is interesting as showing the gradual increase in the number of children receiving instruction throughout the Seychelles islands, from the year when grants-in-aid were first given under the provisions of Regulation No. 2 of 1873, now superseded by Ordinance No. 30 of 1900. From the total number of schools, the St. Louis college, the Victoria school, the Convent school, and those other schools which hitherto have not been eligible for grants, are excluded, but in the number of pupils are included the children receiving instruction in those schools, as well as the children on the roll of the grant-aided schools.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Pupils.
1874	4	421
1875	7	599
1876	6	442
1877	8	588
1878	9	967
1879	12	961
1880	12	855
1881	12	903
1882	14	1,178
1883	17	1,415
1884	20	1,620
1885	21	1,742
1886	21	1,775
1887	22	1,801
1888	24	1,729
1889	25	1,733
1890	24	1,844
1891	27	1,905
1892	27	1,942
1893	27	2,056
1894	28	2,176
1895	25	2,178
1896	24	2,214
1897	25	2,332
1898	25	2,427
1899	25	2,609
1900	25	2,708

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

53. The Victoria Hospital continues to be a useful and creditable institution. It is remarkable for its excellent site, well ordered buildings, scrupulous cleanliness, and the economy with which it is managed. To the three Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny, in whose hands are placed the interior organisation and general management, under the supervision and medical advice of the Chief Medical Officer, the satisfactory condition of the hospital is mainly due. Special reference should be made of the services of Sister St. Landri, the Sister in charge, who has now completed her twenty-fifth year at the hospital, and whose good work was conspicuous during the small-pox epidemic of 1884.

Hospital statistics, 1896–1900.

54. The following table shews the result of the treatment of in-patients at the hospital from 1896 to 1900 :—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1896 ...	88	55	19	11	10	183
1897 ...	98	37	22	14	10	183
1898 ...	126	40	32	13	19	230
1899 ...	190	54	12	8	9	273
1900 ...	112	58	23	12	14	219

The increase in the number of patients in 1898 and 1899 was mainly due to the importation of coolies from India for employment on road work, who, when sick, were treated in the hospital.

Principal diseases.

55. The principal diseases for which persons were admitted to the hospital in 1900 were syphilis, rheumatism, dysentery, and bronchitis, whilst 27 patients were treated for injuries.

Absence of malarial fever.

56. The absence of malarial fever, which is the scourge of most tropical countries, is remarkable, and the only cases coming under the notice and treatment of the Medical Department were imported.

Public dispensary.

57. The extern department at the Victoria Hospital is open three mornings during the week, and was made use of last year by 1,848 persons, of whom 1,398 were females, and 450 males. In 1899 the total number of out-patients was 2,172 ; in 1898, 1,319 ; in 1897, 2,099 ; and in 1896, 2,368.

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Want of a lunatic asylum.

58. Seychelles has no asylum for lunatic patients, and no reformatory. At present the need of a reformatory has not been felt, but the want of a small asylum is much felt. Lunatic patients from Seychelles are now sent to the Mauritius asylum. The difference in the climate between Seychelles and Mauritius, the prevalence of malarial fever in the latter Colony, the isolation from relatives and friends, tend to lessen the chances of recovery of Seychelles lunatic patients who are sent to Mauritius. The number under treatment at the Mauritius Asylum on the 31st December last was 12.

Leper asylum and pauper camp.

59. For a considerable number of years the Island of Curieuse, situated about one mile to the north of Praslin, and of an area of 900 acres, has been exclusively reserved for the leper asylum and pauper camp, no attempt being made to cultivate the island, which is the fifth in size of the Seychelles group, and possesses great capabilities, save in planting it with cocoa-nuts and coco-de-mer trees. The lepers and paupers were removed at the end of 1900 to Round Island, which is about two miles from Baie Ste. Anne on the east of Praslin, the headquarters of the Justice of the Peace and Assistant Medical Officer of the Praslin District.

At the end of December last the lepers under treatment at Round Island were four males and one female, and in the pauper camp there were eight males and two females.

The number of paupers was greater by three than it was at the end of 1899, and the number of lepers had decreased by one.

The lepers and paupers are visited every week by the Assistant Medical Officer stationed at Praslin, and oftener when necessary.

Praslin and La Digue public dispensaries.

60. There was a considerable falling off in the number of persons who were treated at the public dispensaries at Praslin and La Digue during 1900, only 203 persons receiving medical advice and drugs as compared with 392 persons who attended the dispensaries in 1899.

Savings Bank.

61. The Government Savings Bank was first opened on the 5th March, 1894, and at the end of that year the total amount deposited was Rs. 16,914. Interest at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum is paid on deposits. Up to the end of 1899 no portion of the deposits had been invested, and the interest paid by the Government represented so much loss to the public revenue.

The deposits on the 31st December, 1899, amounted to Rs. 70,605.18, and of this sum Rs. 70,556.12 were invested during the early part of 1900 in Victoria and South Australia Stocks, yielding interest at the rate of 3 per cent. The annual interest is, therefore, Rs. 2,116.68.

62. The following table shows the progress of the Savings Bank during the last five years :— Savings Bank statistics, 1896 to 1900

Year.	Number of Accounts open on 31st December.	Amounts of Deposits on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.
		Rs.		
1896 ...	125	33,513.56	26	4
1897 ...	167	63,624.53	46	4
1898 ...	191	44,417.27	40	16
1899 ...	214	70,605.18	47	24
1900 ...	221	61,492.04	35	28

The decrease in the amount on deposit at the end of last year, as compared with the amount on deposit at the end of 1899, is probably due to money being required by small capitalists for investment in the purchase of land, and in certain cases to meet current expenses owing to the short crop of vanilla in 1900.

63. Arrangements were completed in 1900 for establishing at Praslin a branch Savings Bank, which is now in operation. Other branches will probably be opened during the year on the Island of La Digue and at Anse Royale on the south-east of Mahé, where an Assistant Medical Officer, who will also be Justice of the Peace, will be stationed. Branch Savings Bank, Praslin.

64. The want of a bank in Seychelles is still much felt, and endeavours made during 1900 to induce certain banks to open a branch in Mahé have not been successful. The failure of the New Oriental Bank in 1892 is probably still fresh in the memory of banks and companies. A small branch bank or agency conducted on modest lines would, there is little doubt, prove a success, and would prove a great benefit to the people, and especially to the small planters of vanilla, who now have to pay as much as from 9 to 15 per cent. per annum for advances, and are further hampered by the condition that they will sell their vanilla to the merchant advancing the money at the current price, a somewhat harsh condition, as the current price is, as a rule, fixed by the merchants themselves. Want of a Bank in Seychelles.

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VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force.

65. The authorised strength of the Police Force in 1900, including an inspector and sergeant-major, was 60 of all ranks, or six more than in 1899. The cost of the force was Rs. 29,350. The work done was, on the whole, satisfactory, and out of 1,014 persons charged by the police 902 were convicted. The Crown Prosecutor prosecutes all "crimes" and "heavy" misdemeanours, less important cases being left to the Inspector of Police and the Sergeant-Major. The sergeants and, from time to time, constables are entrusted with the prosecution of minor and Police Court cases such as disturbances, drunkenness, &c. The Judge of Seychelles reports that no cases of vexatious prosecution by the police came under his notice last year.

Judicial statistics, 1896 to 1900.

66. The following table gives a summary of the criminal and civil cases tried during the last five years and their results. The figures for 1900 include cases heard by the Justice of the Peace, Praslin district :—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Court Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1896 ...	602	565	793	595	209	56	95
1897 ...	565	556	735	592	135	50	118
1898 ...	557	532	758	628	133	64	154
1899 ...	577	563	764	671	133	61	94
1900 ...	870	860	1,096	931	183	85	80

Drunkenness the principal cause of crime.

Of 592 cases prosecuted by the police, 514 were for disturbances, drunkenness, breaches of "bacca" law, and assaults, and the Judge of Seychelles in his report on the criminal statistics for last year again reports that drink was the incentive in most of the cases of disturbance and assault. The passion for drink seems to be deeply rooted in the labouring classes in Seychelles, and I regret that I must confirm my statement in last year's report that drunkenness is the curse of these Islands. It is in the spread of education, bringing with it the consciousness of the debasing and demoralising effects of

drunkenness, and in the example which should be set by those who constitute the upper classes, that the true remedy must be sought.

Prison.

67. The prison is situated in the town of Victoria and adjoins the grounds of Government House and the Central Police Station. The prisoners sleep in two large dormitories and no separation of classes of prisoners is, under existing circumstances, practicable either by day or night. The removal of the police station to another site, the enlargement of the prison grounds, and the construction of a new prison building on the separate cell system, with proper outbuildings and workshops, have been approved in principle and plans are now under consideration.

The head of the Prison Department is the Inspector of Police, who is also styled Superintendent of Prisons. At the end of 1900 the regular prison staff consisted of a resident gaoler and seven guards, the services of one guard and three overseers of prison gangs having been dispensed with during the year. The number of guards has since been reduced to six. This reduction in the prison establishment was rendered possible by restricting the employment of prisoners on miscellaneous services, by a better arrangement of the hours of duty of the guards, and by the treatment of sick prisoners, who are not seriously ill, in a small building within the prison, instead of, as formerly, at the Victoria Hospital.

Improvement in prison discipline.

68. There has been a marked improvement in prison discipline and in the conduct of prisoners since March, 1900, when the Mark System Regulations were for the first time introduced. To this improvement the Acting Superintendent bears testimony in his annual report. Work by prisoners has also been better and more cheaply done. In addition to the ordinary round of prison labour and carpentry work, prisoners are now taught the trades of tinsmith and shoemaker, and a small printing press has been set up in the prison, by means of which the forms required in Government departments are printed off. Book binding will shortly be added to the other prison industries.

Cost of prison.

69. The total cost of the Prison Department in 1900 was Rs. 9,942 51c. and the prisoners' earnings were Rs. 770 96c. This sum represents only the actual amount of money paid by private persons for work specially authorised to be done in the prison, and no account is taken of the value of labour performed by prisoners in keeping in order the grounds of Government House, in work done for the Public Works Department, and in scavengering the streets of Victoria. The estimated value of these services more than counterbalances the cost of the upkeep of the prison.

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Admissions to prison.

70. 315 persons were committed to prison in 1900, of whom 257 were males and 58 females. The daily average number of males and females was 50 and 2 respectively. Female prisoners are kept in a separate building under the charge of a matron.

Prison statistics.

71. The following table gives a comparative statement for the last five years of the number of persons committed to prison and the daily average of prisoners in prison :—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1896...	329	73
1897...	301	70
1898...	279	56
1899...	321	50
1900...	315	52

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Census, 1881.

72. The population of Seychelles was fixed by the census of 1881 at 14,191; the death-rate in that year being 17·96 per 1,000, and the birth-rate 35·37.

1891.

73. According to the census of 1891, the population had increased to 16,440; the death-rate in the same year being 18·37 per 1,000, and the birth-rate 37·53.

Estimated population, 1900

74. The Chief Officer of the Civil Status estimates the total population of Seychelles and its dependencies to have been

20,275 on the 31st December, 1900, or an increase in nearly ten year of 3,835 against an increase of 2,249 in the previous decade.

The census for the present year took place on the 30th May, and it will be interesting to see how far the actual results of the census agree with the present estimate of the population.

75. The population of Seychelles has almost trebled during the last 50 years, as will be seen from the following comparative statement :— Population, 1851 to 1900.

Year.	Total Population.	Increase during Ten Years.
1851	6,841	—
1861	7,560	719
1871	11,179	3,619
1881	14,191	3,012
1891	16,440	2,249
1900	20,275	3,768

According to the above figures the greatest increase has taken place during the last period, which was only short of ten years by three months and five days, the census for 1891 having been held on the 5th April of that year.

76. The birth-rate in 1900 was 30·45 per 1,000, and the death-rate 17·05 ; the latter rate being 1·15 less than that of London, 1·7 less than that of Brighton, 1·11 less than that of Edinburgh, and 12·15 less than that of Dublin. Birth-rate and death-rate.

The total number of arrivals in 1900 was 900, and of departures 593, leaving a net gain to the population of 307.

The total number of deaths was 335, and of births 598.

Of the deaths, 120 were of children under five years of age, 173 of persons over five years and under 70, and 42 of persons over 70.

The high rate of infant mortality is attributable more to the ignorance of parents than to any other cause, but also, in the country districts, to the difficulty of obtaining medical advice.

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

77. The following table gives the estimated population of the Seychelles Islands, and the birth and death-rates for the last five years :—

Vital statistics, 1896–1900.

Year.	Total Population on 31st December.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	Death Rate per 1,000.
1896...	18,301	33·6	16·0
1897...	18,639	33·76	18·68
1898...	19,535	31·97	19·36
1899...	19,638	32·5	14·07
1900...	20,275	30·45	17·05

The birth and death-rates from 1896 to 1899 differ slightly from those given in the Report for 1899, the figures in that report being those furnished by the Medical Department. I have thought it better now to adopt the system of calculating the rates employed by the Chief Officer of the Civil Status.

Healthiness of Seychelles.

78. The general healthiness of the Seychelles Islands is proved by its low death-rate, and the records of past years show that the driest months of the year, that is May to September, during which the prevailing wind is the south-east trade, are usually the months when the death-rate is lowest.

The Chief Medical Officer confirms the remarks which he made in his Report for 1899 that deaths from dysentery, especially among young children, are most common either when the streams are low and the infusion of vegetable matter in the streams is very concentrated, or after rain, when the river-beds are stirred up, and this vegetable refuse is being washed down to the sea.

Further experience has only confirmed the Chief Medical Officer in his view that malarial fever does not exist in Seychelles. The only cases which have come under his notice have been imported, and some of these persons who landed at Seychelles seriously ill from malarial fever rapidly improved, and had no return of it so long as they remained in the islands. It is a remarkable fact that the anopheles mosquito, which is stated to be the great agent in propagating malaria, is not to be found in Seychelles.

If regular monthly inter-communication by steamers with East Africa and Mauritius is maintained, and a comfortable hotel or a number of small bungalows were built on the high ground which overlooks Victoria, there is no reason why Seychelles,

owing to the exceptional healthiness of its climate, should not become the sanatorium of Mauritius and East Africa. The climate does not appear to be altogether suited to persons suffering from consumption, as stated by my predecessor in his Blue Book Report for 1894, and the Chief Medical Officer is of opinion that the extreme dampness of the climate might even prove prejudicial to them.

The equability of the temperature would, however, be welcome to persons with weak chests and delicate throats.

Creation of Local Board of Health, Victoria.

79. The constitution of the local Board of Health for the town of Victoria, to which reference is made under heading III. Legislature, paragraph 46, and the allocation to this board of an annual sum of over Rs.20,000 will, it is hoped, be instrumental in effecting several much needed improvements in the town. The latrine and scavengering services are now carried out by a contract, instead of as hitherto, by prison labour ; steps are being taken to improve the drainage and water supply, and the condition of the streets is receiving due attention. The question of overcrowding will have to be taken in hand. The town is already extending rapidly both north and south along the sea, but some day it may become necessary to reclaim land from the sea to provide sufficient accommodation for the business part of the town.

Vaccination.

80. The results of vaccination during the past year have not been satisfactory. The explanation must be sought in the unsuitability of the lymph now supplied, and in the length of time which its passage from England to Seychelles takes, rather than in any want of activity on the part of the Medical Department. Two cases of lymph, packed by the Society of Apothecaries on the 28th November and 12th December, 1900, only reached Seychelles on the 13th February and, owing to their detention at Colombo, awaiting the Seychelles steamer, arrived in bad condition. The Chief Medical Officer, reporting on the vaccination results of the year, states that out of 396 cases, 196 were successful the first time, 63 the second time, and 35 the third time, whilst 102 were unsuccessful. He adds that, in his opinion the protection against small-pox afforded by vaccination with the lymph now supplied is very poor. As small-pox is probably the one disease to be feared in Seychelles, it is to be hoped that either a less sensitive lymph may be available, which will not be injured by delays in transit, or that a new mail service will enable lymph to be forwarded without transhipment, in which case it could be stored in the steamer's cold room until arrival at Victoria.

Quarantine.

81. A great improvement has been effected in the quarantine restrictions in Seychelles by the passing of Ordinance No. 20 of 1900, to which reference is made in paragraph 46, and by the reduction of the period of quarantine for plague and cholera to 10 and five days respectively. The period of quarantine for small-pox, yellow fever, and typhus is 15, 10, and 10 days respectively. Workable quarantine regulations have been drawn

up under the Quarantine Ordinances of 1899 and 1900, and the unfortunate notoriety which Seychelles had acquired by the unnecessarily stringent nature of its quarantine laws is now a thing of the past. Every care however, is taken to ensure the disinfection of cargo and especially passengers' clothes. A steam disinfector by Messrs. Reck and Co., of Copenhagen, which has been erected on the quarantine station at Long Island has, so the Chief Medical Officer reports, proved most efficient. Dr. Denman states that it is easy to work and does no harm to the clothes; that articles passed through the disinfector dry rapidly, and that, after a few minutes exposure to the sun, they are ready for re-packing.

Climate.

82. The climate of Seychelles varies little throughout the year, all the islands being situated between the parallels of 4° and 5° S. latitude. The mean temperature for 1898 was 79·40, for 1899 78·84, and for 1900 79·58. The coolest, driest, and healthiest months of the year are from June to October. The heat of the period from November to May is tempered by rain. What may be called the official meteorological observations are taken at the Port Office, Victoria, at a height of 20 feet above sea level. On the hills where some of the planters live, and where there are several private houses, the rainfall is greater than in Victoria, and the thermometer, especially at night, registers several degrees lower.

Meteorological observations, 1896–1900.

83. The following table gives the rainfall and the maxima and minima shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years :—

Year.	Rainfall.	Maximum shade Temperature.	Minimum shade Temperature.
1896	115·08	87·2	68·0
1897	101·98	88·8	71·8
1898	97·63	82·9	77·4
1899	88·42	87·4	70·0
1900	110·75	88·7	74·1

Rain fell on 145 days in 1898, on 162 days in 1899, and on 174 days in 1900.

Wind.

84. The prevailing directions of the wind are S. and S.E., and N. and N.W. The average force of the wind during each month of 1900 is given in the following table. It will be noticed that the cool season, June to October, is the period during which the

winds are strongest. The prevailing wind during those months is the south-east trade.

Month.	Miles per hour.
January	7
February	5·6
March	5
April	6·1
May	5·1
June	9·4
July	11·6
August	13·3
September...	11·6
October	9·3
November	7·3
December	4·7

Seychelles has never been visited by a cyclone, but the destructive landslip which occurred in Mahé on the 12th October, 1862, is still vividly remembered by many of the inhabitants.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

85. The increase in the postal business done in 1900, as shown from the following table, again bears witness to the expansion of trade in Seychelles. The increase of 31,126 in the number of letters received and sent in 1900 as compared with the number received and sent in 1899 is partly due also to the introduction of

Increase in postal business.

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

the penny post, which has not resulted in the loss of revenue prophesied at the time.

Year	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Letters received	12,056	12,655	22,530	28,544	57,831
Letters sent	16,991	13,804	33,000	38,040	39,879
Newspapers, samples, &c., received.	4,086	4,033	18,930	47,540	59,379
Newspapers, samples, &c., sent	754	560	575	6,810	2,750
Parcels received	166	273	333	259	393
Parcels sent	417	460	304	392	422
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	25,912	36,661	44,959	62,673	95,295
Money Orders paid	24,406	41,225	14,194	22,325	16,315

The total number of letters, newspapers, &c., and parcels passing through the post office exceeded in 1900 by 31,126 the number in 1899, while the value of the money order business done last year was greater by Rs. 26,612 than it was the year previous. It is to the credit of the Department that the additional work which this growth in the post office business entailed was efficiently performed without any permanent addition to the post office staff.

Mail service.

86. From February, 1900, the inward mails were brought to Seychelles every four weeks from Colombo by steamers of the British India Steamship Company under an agreement entered into by the Crown Agents on behalf of Mauritius and Seychelles, and the outward mails were carried by steamers belonging to the same Company direct from Seychelles to Aden. This mail service was performed throughout the year with commendable punctuality. In addition to this mail service, subsidised partly by the Imperial Government, and partly by the Mauritius and Seychelles Governments, steamers of the British India Company, trading between India and the East Coast of Africa, generally called at Seychelles on their outward and homeward voyages, and thus gave Seychelles the advantages of postal communication with India and Africa. The agreement with the British India Company was terminated at their own request at the end of one year from its taking effect, but it was renewed for twelve weeks more so that other arrangements might be made.

Inland postal service.

87. The absence of an inland postal system, to which reference was made in the Report for 1899, has no longer to be deplored.

The necessary Regulations, under the Post Office Amendment Ordinance, were drawn up in 1900, and, thanks to the co-operation of merchants and traders who have allowed letter-boxes to be placed on their premises, in addition to those set up at the district police stations, an internal postal service was brought into force on the 1st January, 1901. The results of this service will be dealt with in the next Blue Book Report, but the local post appears to have been started on a sound system, and to be likely to prove a success.

Telegraph statistics.

88. Through the courtesy of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, I am able to give the following interesting table showing the gradual increase in the number of cablegrams (exclusive of Reuter's) received at, and despatched from, the Company's office in Victoria, Mahé, for the six years ending on the 31st March, 1901 :—

Year ending 31st March.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Number of cablegrams received and despatched.	1,168	1,435	1,745	1,767	1,967	2,244

That the number of cablegrams received and despatched should practically have doubled in six years is a significant fact, and it will be noted that this increase is coincident with the increase in postal statistics, in the returns of imports and exports, and in the revenue of Seychelles.

Telegraph subsidy.

89. The Seychelles Government pays the Telegraph Company Rs.15,000 a year as its contribution for the maintenance of telegraphic communication between Seychelles and Mauritius and Seychelles and Zanzibar, and under an agreement, dated the 29th March, 1893, this sum is payable for 20 years. Seychelles also pays Rs.750 a year, under an agreement of the 23rd July, 1896, made between the Crown Agents on behalf of Seychelles and Reuter's Telegraph Company, for a daily supply of telegrams on matters of general interest. This agreement can be cancelled on six months' notice being given in any year before the 1st of September.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Constitutional changes.

90. The most important changes which occurred during the year, though not the most noticed, were the substitution of the Legal Adviser for the Judge as senior member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, and the limitation to three years of the tenure by unofficial members of their seats in the Legislative

SEYCHELLES, 1900.

Council. These changes, which were effected by additional Royal Instructions of the 13th July, 1900, have given general satisfaction, and have worked well.

Loan works.

91. Excellent progress was made last year in the construction of roads out of the Imperial loan of £20,000, to which reference is made in paragraph 10 of this report. During 1900 Rs.5,422 were expended in connection with the survey of Mahé which has now been completed, whilst the cost of road work amounted to Rs.23,564.85, giving a total expenditure from loan funds of Rs.28,986.87.

The original programme of new road work for the year was completed at the end of September, and, during the remaining quarter of the year, additional new road work was satisfactorily carried out. This result was due to the road gangs being composed of carefully selected labourers; to competent overseers being placed in charge; and to constant and vigilant supervision being exercised by the responsible officers of the Public Works department.

Upkeep of roads.

92. In addition to what are termed "loan works," *i.e.*, the construction of new roads, good work has been done in maintaining in order the existing roads.

Cantonniers.

93. Thirty cantonniers, each of whom was assigned a certain length of road to keep in order, were employed during the year, and, with constant supervision and occasional assistance from road gangs, kept the roads in a creditable condition.

Existing roads in Mahé.

94. In Mahé the following roads now exist: 15 miles of first class roads, fit for wheeled traffic, 40 miles of second class roads, the gradients of many of which, owing to the hilly country which they traverse, are too great to admit of wheeled traffic, but can be ridden over. One and a half miles of streets in Victoria, the capital of Mahé; 50 miles of footpaths throughout the islands, used for traffic on foot only.

It is estimated that the total outlay in constructing roads during the last thirty years is not less than Rs. 618,000.

Rates of Wages.

95. The extension of vanilla plantations has resulted in a slight increase of wages during the year, the competition among planters for labourers becoming keener, but an ordinary estate labourer still only gets from Rs. 144 to Rs. 192 a year without rations, although the number of men employed at this lower rate is less than it was. The wages of male domestic servants vary from Rs. 192 to Rs. 240 a year, whilst a few of the best servants can command Rs. 25 a month and more. The wages of carpenters vary from Rs. 240 to Rs. 360 a year; of masons, from Rs. 240 to Rs. 400; and of blacksmiths, from Rs. 300 to Rs. 480. Dock labourers are paid from Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 2 a day.

96. Seychelles is not adapted for white labourers, though Europeans do well as managers of estates, and as owners of property. The extreme healthiness of the climate admits of persons living an outdoor life without the bad effects which are generally caused by exposure in tropical countries. Europeans, provided they are temperate, live regular lives, and wear during the day suitable sun helmets, can enjoy the same measure of good health as they have done in their own countries.

Seychelles suitable for European planters and managers, but not European labourers.

97. For a man of energy, perseverance, and temperate habits Seychelles affords as good an opening as any other tropical colony. But he must be provided with sufficient capital to enable him to buy land outright, and to wait until the crops give a return.

Openings for capital.

He must live on his estate, and make himself acquainted with the peculiarities of each vanilla vine, as well as those of his labourers. He must be ready to learn, and to make use of his knowledge when acquired. He should not rely, as many planters do, on the somewhat capricious return which a vanilla plantation gives, but endeavour to plant up his estate with other tropical products for which the climate and soil of Seychelles are well suited. He should, in fact, be guided by the same principles which actuate the skilled agriculturist in England and other countries, and remember that the chief elements of success are patience and hard work.

E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT,

Administrator.

Government House,

Seychelles,

July 15th, 1901.

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No. 364.

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REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 333.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
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The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
343	Basutoland	1900–1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica	1900–1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"
362	British Honduras	"
363	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla...	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896-1900
18	Hong Kong	Report on Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

No. 364.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 333.)

ADMINISTRATOR E. B. SWEET ESCOTT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Seychelles,
16th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book of the Seychelles Islands for the year 1901.

2. I have annexed to this Report a carefully prepared and interesting Report by Mr. R. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Station, on the work of the station during the last year, and on the agricultural capabilities of these Islands. As the information which this Report contains has not been previously published, I shall be much obliged if Mr. Dupont's Report may be printed as an annexure to my Blue Book Report.

I have, &c.,
E. B. SWEET ESCOTT,
Administrator.

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REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1901.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

1. For the seventh year in succession the Revenue of Seychelles exceeded the Expenditure, and for the sixth time the Revenue has been greater than that of the preceding year.

In 1900, the Revenue of Seychelles was Rs. 399,311.65, or Rs. 36,520.59 more than was collected in 1899. In 1901 the total Revenue rose to Rs. 486,323.98, that is Rs. 87,012.33 more than the Revenue for 1900, and only Rs. 1,281 less than double the Revenue collected in 1896.

Expenditure

2. The total Expenditure, exclusive of the cost of works (survey and map of Mahé and construction of roads) defrayed from Loan Funds and amounting to Rs. 23,062.32, was Rs. 401,821.57, so that on the transactions of the year 1901 there was a surplus in favour of Revenue of Rs. 84,502.41. When it is borne in mind that the Revenue of Seychelles in 1871 was only Rs. 74,709, it must be admitted that the change which has taken place in thirty years in the financial position of these Islands is remarkable.

Total revenue and expenditure, 1897 to 1901

3. The following table gives the total Revenue and Expenditure of Seychelles for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1897	296,171	259,056
1898	316,176	276,365
1899	362,791	268,907
1900	399,311	351,919
1901	486,323	401,521

Revenue and expenditure of Local Board of Health, Central District.

4. On the 1st January, 1901, the Local Board of Health for the Central District of Mahé, *i.e.*, the town of Victoria, came into being, and in the total Revenue and Expenditure of Seychelles are included the funds allocated to, and the expenditure incurred by, the Board. The sources of Revenue assigned to the Board in 1901 produced Rs. 29,617.75 and the Expenditure of the Board amounted to Rs. 18,470.77, leaving a surplus of Revenue at the end of the year of Rs. 11,146.98.

5. In the following comparative statement of the Revenue for 1900 and 1901, the Revenue of the Local Board of Health is shown in a separate column:— Details of revenue, 1900 and 1901.

GENERAL REVENUE.

Heads of Receipts.	1900.	1901.	Local Board of Health Revenue, 1901.	Total General and Local Revenues, 1901.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	229,121 85	263,402 96	—	263,402 96
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues.	6,408 20	5,544 44	—	5,544 44
3. Licenses, &c. ...	43,614 43	35,649 45	21,754 50	57,403 95
4. Taxes	45,328 71	54,909 97	5,156 01	60,065 98
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	33,040 79	25,972 37	2,581 70	28,554 07
6. Post Office ...	15,043 85	23,381 84	—	23,381 84
7. Rents of Government Property.	10,316 06	17,349 78	—	17,349 78
8. Interest	2,648 88	8,325 23	—	8,325 23
9. Miscellaneous ...	13,788 88	22,170 19	125 54	22,295 73
Total ...	399,311 65	456,706 23	29,617 =	486,323 98

6. The Revenue of 1901, compared with that of 1900, shows an increase under each head of receipt except "Pilotage and Harbour Dues," and "Fees of Court or Office, &c.," and the actual receipts under these two heads are greater than the estimated receipts for the year. The increase under "Customs" is partly due to the greater quantity of goods imported and guano exported, and partly to the re-arrangement of the tariff by Ordinance No. 29 of 1900. Causes of Increase in 1901.

The greater number of licenses taken out in 1901, the increase from Rs. 15 to Rs. 100 made by Ordinance No. 21 of 1900 in the six-monthly license duty payable by vanilla buyers, the additional license of Rs. 20 for every six months required by Ordinance No. 8 of 1901 from retailers of spirits, wine, and beer, and a slight change in fishing licenses effected by Ordinance No. 20 of 1901, are the causes of the additional total Revenue raised from "Licenses, &c."

The operation of the Consolidating Local Rate Ordinance, No. 16 of 1900, is mainly accountable for the increase in receipts under "Taxes."

The growing postal business of Seychelles, the successful introduction of an internal postal system, the transmission by

parcel post of a considerable quantity of vanilla, an unusually large sale of stamps to stamp collectors and to persons who now purchase stamps for sale to the public, receiving from the Government a commission of 5 per cent., account for the increase in "Post Office" receipts.

The larger extent of Crown land under lease, the greater amount of surplus funds invested, and the royalty of Rs. 5 a ton which, under an agreement with the Government is now paid on a minimum of 3,000 tons of guano to be taken annually from the Amirantes Islands, caused an increase in the Revenue derived from "Rents of Government Property," "Interest," and "Miscellaneous" respectively.

Details of expenditure, 1900 and 1901.

7. In the following comparative statement of disbursements the expenditure of Seychelles for 1901 from General Revenue Funds only is given, the expenditure of the Local Board of Health for the Central District being detailed in paragraph 9.

GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

Heads of Service.	1900.		1901.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	55,525	38	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	12,096	40	14,573	75
3. Administrator and Legislature	23,521	67	20,880	63
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	16,348	93	17,526	93
5. Audit Department	3,557	42	3,760	82
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	10,028	49	11,739	66
7. Legal Department	25,815	43	29,565	88
8. Police Department	28,991	14	29,256	77
9. Prison Department	10,026	78	11,598	29
10. Medical Department	21,852	04	28,966	16
11. Sanitary and Board of Health	8,258	80	—	
12. Ecclesiastical Department	9,902	98	10,822	93
13. Education Department	15,723	36	19,267	36
14. Printing Department...	3,368	10	4,565	73
15. Post Office Department	6,438	02	9,074	75
16. Transport	25	00	847	45
17. Crown Lands Department	4,153	55	—	
17a. Botanic Station	—		7,878	30
18. Exchange	4,841	94	3,486	76
19. Miscellaneous	21,418	94	21,189	11
20. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	25,200	31	46,321	38
21. Public Works Department	9,212	86	15,439	50
22. Public Works, Recurrent	18,002	39	21,222	46
23. Public Works, Extraordinary	17,610	64	40,549	93
Total	351,919	71	383,350	80

8. The sum of Rs. 14,816.25 under "Charge on Account of Public Debt" represents the annuity of principal and interest combined on the Imperial Loan of £20,000. The amount paid under this head in 1900 was the balance of a debt to Mauritius which dated back to 1871 when the finances of Seychelles were under the control of the Mauritius Government. The separation of the finances took place in 1872, but, at the time of separation, Seychelles was debited with a sum of £3,649 18*s.* 5*d.*, which, on the 31st of March, 1885, had increased to Rs. 105,363.23. From that date onwards the debt was paid off by annual instalments until final extinction in April, 1900. The increase under "Legal Department" mainly results from the creation of the offices of Justice of the Peace, and that under "Medical Department" from a rearrangement of the staff, the purchase of drugs for sale to the public rendered necessary by the closing of the only chemist's shop in Seychelles, and the transfer of the cost of quarantine services to the vote for the Medical Department. Explanations as to 1901 expenditure.

Provision for "Sanitary and Board of Health," excluding quarantine services, was contained in the estimates for the new Local Board of Health, and the above heading now disappears from the Estimates.

The increase in the Education vote was due to the raising of the salary of the Inspector of Schools, the better payment of monitors in the Victoria School, the addition of upwards of Rs. 2,000 to the grants for Aided Schools, and the creation of an Infant School in connection with the Victoria School. The establishment of an internal postal system is mainly responsible for the increase under Post Office Department. The Crown Lands Department was merged last year in the Public Works Department, and this change and the new appointment of an assistant surveyor account for the increased expenditure in the latter department.

The expenditure under the heading "Miscellaneous," which again was considerably in excess of the Estimate for the year, although slightly less than that of the previous year, included the sums of Rs. 2,905.77 for destruction of rats, Rs. 1,000 for an agricultural exhibition, and Rs. 7,500 as the contribution of Seychelles to the Victoria Imperial Memorial Fund. For none of these services had provision been made in the Estimates.

The subsidy to the British India Company from April to December, 1900, was only paid by the Crown Agents in 1901, and this deferred payment caused an unexpected excess on the vote for "Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies." The construction of quarters and offices for the Assistant Medical Officers and Justices of the Peace at Praslin and Anse Royale, South Mahé; the completion of a new King's warehouse in stone; the transfer of the Leper Asylum and Pauper Camp from Curieuse Island

near Praslin; the purchase and laying down of pipes for a water supply at Baie St. Anne, Praslin; and at Anse Royale, South Mahé—these services mainly account for the expenditure under "Public Works Extraordinary" in 1901 exceeding that for 1900, although it was some Rs. 15,000 less than the amount estimated to be expended during the year.

Details of Local Board of Health, Central District, expenditure, 1901.

9. The expenditure of the Local Board of Health for the Central District (Town of Victoria) was in previous years provided for under the heading "Sanitary and Board of Health," which also included provision for quarantine services.

In 1900 the expenditure under this heading was Rs. 8,258.80, of which Rs. 1,180.33 were devoted to quarantine services. From the following statement it will be seen that the expenditure on the town of Victoria was Rs. 18,470.77, or Rs. 11,392.30 more than that of 1900. For 1902 the estimated expenditure is Rs. 29,082.

Expenditure of Local Board of Health, Central District.

Head of Service.	1901.
	Rs. cts.
Local Board of Health Staff and Office Expenses.	3,597 60
Streets	8,115 04
Scavengering	1,437 53
Fire Department	30 00
Market and Slaughter-house ...	1,043 82
Cemeteries	2,545 47
Water Supply	1,701 31
Total...	18,470 77

Changes in taxation.

10. The only changes made in taxation were the imposition of an additional duty of Rs. 20 for a six-monthly license for the sale by retail of spirits, wine, and beer to be consumed on the premises, and the raising from Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 of the six-monthly licenses of hotel, tavern, and restaurant keepers, a slight alteration in fishing licenses, and a readjustment of Harbour Dues.

Assets and liabilities.

11. On the 31st December, 1901, the Assets of Seychelles exceeded its Liabilities by Rs. 328,637.84. If to this sum is added the surplus of Assets over Liabilities of the Local Board of Health for the Central District of Mahé, amounting to Rs. 11,124.38, the total surplus is Rs. 339,762.22 or Rs. 23,586.41 more than the total Revenue of Seychelles for any year up to and including the year 1898.

The following table shows the position of Seychelles as regards its Assets and Liabilities from 1884 to 1901:—

Year	Amount.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	
31st December, 1884 ...	90,651 92	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
" 1885 ...	64,108 29	" "
" 1886 ...	46,383 29	" "
" 1887 ...	8,777 38	" "
" 1888 ...	2,602 40	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
" 1889 ...	9,653 07	" "
" 1890 ...	12,512 96	" "
" 1891 ...	14,399 42	" "
" 1892 ...	304 64	" "
" 1893 ...	11,718 34	" "
" 1894 ...	37,033 14	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
" 1895 ...	13,126 96	" "
" 1896 ...	15,488 01	" "
" 1897 ...	2,017 04	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
" 1898 ...	67,436 73	" "
" 1899 ...	126,426 26	" "
" 1900 ...	236,513 85	" "
" 1901 ...	339,762 22°	" "

° Includes Rs. 11,124.38, being surplus of Assets over Liabilities of Local Board of Health, Central District of Mahé.

Investments.

12. The investments of the Government, which on the 31st December, 1899, were only Rs. 22,350, amounted on the 31st December, 1900, to Rs. 239,258.48, and on the 31st December, 1901, to Rs. 250,378.71.

Public Debt.

13. The Public Debt of Seychelles, consisting of the loan from the Imperial Treasury of £20,000 (Rs. 300,000) under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and Seychelles Ordinance No. 1 of 1900, for the construction of new roads in, and for the survey of, the Island of Mahé, on the 31st December last was Rs. 285,183.75, the first annual repayment of principal and interest combined, amounting to £987 15*s.* 0*d.* (Rs. 14,816.25) having been made in April, 1901, or one year after the actual raising of the loan. The last payment of this annuity is due on the 26th April, 1930. The following statement shows the expenditure from Loan Funds from 1897 to 1901 inclusive:—

Loan Funds expenditure, 1897 to 1901.

Year.	Road Construction.	Survey of Mahé.	Totals.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1897...	10,119 22	115 25	10,234 47
1898...	101,370 78	8,804 18	110,174 96
1899...	106,303 22	8,419 23	114,722 45
1900...	23,567 25	5,420 52	28,987 77
1901...	22,062 65	999 67	23,062 32
Total	263,423 12	23,758 85	287,181 97

At the end of 1901 the balance of the Loan was Rs. 12,818.03, and this sum, it is estimated, will be exhausted towards the close of the third quarter of the current year.

Financial results of 1900 and 1901.

14. The financial results of the last two years may be briefly summarised as follows:—

Revenue, greater by Rs. 123,532.92 than it was in 1899; surplus of Assets over Liabilities increased by Rs. 213,335.96; Investments increased by Rs. 228,028.71; and Interest on Investments by Rs. 7,614.53; whilst in all departments there has been a rearrangement of salaries and in most an increase of staff to the great advantage of the Service. Improvements in many directions have been carried out, involving considerable expenditure, and a Botanical Department established. Lastly, the expenditure for "Public Works Recurrent" and "Public Works Extraordinary," which for the years 1898 and 1899 was Rs. 54,294.88, totalled for 1900 and 1901 Rs. 97,385.42, or Rs. 43,090.54 more.

In view of the foregoing facts, it is not too much to say that the present financial position of Seychelles may be regarded as satisfactory, and the future can be faced with confidence.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

15. The declared value of imports in 1901 amounted to Rs. 1,149,646, being greater by Rs. 168,735 than the declared value of imports in 1900, and by Rs. 165,980 than the declared value of imports in any previous year.

Exports.

16. The declared value of exports was Rs. 1,417,515, or Rs. 381,354 more than the declared value of exports in 1900, but less than the declared value of exports in 1896, 1897, and 1899.

If there had not been a marked falling off in the value of vanilla the total value of exports in 1901 would have largely exceeded the total value of any previous year. In 1899 the quantity of vanilla exported was 41,835 kilos., or more than in any previous year, and its declared value was Rs. 1,338,720. In 1901 the quantity exported was no less than 71,899 kilos.; but its declared value was only Rs. 1,108,792, so that although more vanilla by 30,064 kilos. was exported in 1901 than in 1899, its declared value at the Customs was less by Rs. 229,928 than the declared value of the vanilla in 1899.

The actual value was probably even lower, for, as a general rule, the declared value was Rs. 8 a lb., whereas the actual value did not probably exceed Rs. 6 a lb.

17. In the following table are given the total values of imports, with and without specie, for the last five years:— Comparative table of imports and exports, 1897–1901.

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1897	942,017	1,222,411	1,503,701	1,567,295
1898	889,041	1,009,640	1,278,?82	1,381,514
1899	984,666	1,041,890	1,853,362	1,897,662
1900	980,911	1,000,911	1,036,161	1,052,211
1901	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245

18. The following table gives a comparative statement of the principal articles imported in 1900 and 1901, and the countries of origin:— Comparative table of principal imports, 1900, 1901.

—	United Kingdom.		India.		Mauritius.		France.		Zanzibar.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
Coal	126,384	106,500	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	18,384	—	992	499	—	—	—	—
Cotton Goods	69,590	108,222	23,486	22,045	2,115	12,763	3,049	10,795	17	605
Flour	9	210	19,595	28,317	16	10,190	—	—	180	2,086
Haberdashery and millinery	25,159	19,328	12,366	20,030	605	7,880	29,549	24,596	37	140
Iron goods	28,883	36,234	3,055	1,575	2,330	14,056	1,955	8,077	60	50
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	8,053	5,173	2,442	696	4,771	1,117	2,043	1,732	10	—
Leather boots and shoes	5,886	7,022	2,941	1,532	359	1,189	1,301	3,391	—	—
Provisions	7,940	13,419	1,573	1,737	842	4,099	631	3,079	—	67
Rice	—	—	179,821	173,328	22,984	50,333	—	—	4	8,871
Soap	437	915	1,823	546	104	106	2,518	1,842	—	9
Spirits of all kinds	10,714	14,001	20	—	15,706	20,560	19,000	23,274	—	—
Sugar	—	—	—	866	44,182	40,227	—	—	—	273
Wine of all kinds	29	—	300	—	1,690	4,477	59,262	69,189	—	—

19. The value of imports during the last five years from those countries from which Seychelles principally draws its supplies is given in the followng table:— Comparative table of imports from principal countries, 1897 to 1901.

Country.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	248,798	136,550	323,406	359,862	400,725
India	235,144	317,123	334,693	316,112	304,748
Mauritius ...	127,661	137,802	123,641	153,363	282,446
France	104,519	131,496	177,619	152,532	192,260

The noteworthy features of the two last tables seem to be a greater demand on the part of the people of Seychelles for goods of all kinds; increased consumption of wine and spirits; the gradual growth of trade with the United Kingdom, the value of the imports from which now exceeds by nearly Rs. 100,000 the imports from any other country; and the extension of trade with Mauritius. The interruption last year, for nearly four months, of a regular mail service to and from Seychelles compelled many merchants to obtain supplies from Mauritius, with the result that the declared value of the imports from Mauritius in 1901 was nearly Rs. 130,000 more than it was in 1900.

No coffee was imported last year from India, and, seeing that as much coffee was consumed as hitherto, it would appear that the local Liberian coffee, which is of excellent quality, is coming into favour.

There is abundance of good coffee in Seychelles not only to meet the demands of the local market but for export.

20. The following table gives, for the last two years, the declared value at the Customs of the principal exports of Seychelles, showing the chief countries to which they were exported:— Comparative table of principal exports, 1900, 1901.

—	Cocoa.		Cocoanuts		Guano.		Oil (cocoanut).		Salted fish.		Soap.		Tortoise shell.		Vanilla.	
	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	5,477	2,551	—	—	—	8,500	6	—	—	—	—	—	7,682	13,106	423,243	512,641
France	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,101	2,975	155,907	560,616
Mauritius ...	30	—	23,282	19,909	21,895	37,933	117,012	95,378	2,228	2,130	—	—	4,850	—	900	34,703
India	—	500	1,570	2,166	—	—	89,820	24,802	—	—	—	—	100	—	—	—
Zanzibar... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,965	950	150	—	33,486	23,780	—	—	—	—
Madagascar ...	—	—	—	780	—	—	—	15,000	—	—	—	6,785	—	—	—	5
Aden	858	—	223	1,833	—	—	818	6,958	—	—	—	45	6,200	1,017	—	—
Réunion... ...	—	—	1,763	1,689	2,814	2·0	1,831	2,668	1,364	250	1,050	950	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	—	—	—	—	—	4,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	92	826
Australia ...	—	—	—	—	—	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nossi-Bé ...	—	—	685	—	—	—	52,919	—	—	—	1,242	—	—	—	—	—

21. The principal countries to which Seychelles exports its produce are still the United Kingdom, France, Mauritius, and India, and the declared value of the exports to these countries during the last five years is given in the following table:— Comparative table of exports to principal countries, 1897 to 1901.

Country.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	637,906	505,505	907,142	437,756	537,135
France	348,330	290,958	472,314	173,124	563,902
Mauritius ...	152,579	157,094	107,919	177,843	205,266
India	264,605	234,711	271,997	110,121	78,354

22. For the first time France heads the list of countries receiving the exports of Seychelles, and the United Kingdom is only second. The explanation is that more vanilla in 1901 was sent to France, notwithstanding the high duty levied on it by that country, than was sent to England, the declared value of the vanilla exported to France exceeding the declared value of the vanilla exported to England by Rs. 47,975. Exports to France.

23. The exports to India fell off in 1901 to a remarkable extent, partly owing to the discontinuance of regular communication between Seychelles and India, and partly owing to the better price for cocoanut oil obtainable in Mauritius. Whilst the declared value of cocoanut oil exported to India in 1901 was only Rs. 24,802 against Rs. 89,820 in 1900, the declared value of oil exported to Mauritius was Rs. 95,378. Exports to India.

24. Again, guano of the declared value of Rs. 37,933 and vanilla of the declared value of Rs. 34,703 were exported to Mauritius last year, and so the total declared value of exports to Mauritius in 1901 exceeded that of the preceding year by Rs. 27,423. Exports to Mauritius.

25. The cultivation of the cocoanut palm must, and should be, one of the principal industries of Seychelles. The necessity of paying more attention to the treatment of the palm, and of increasing its productiveness by some system of manuring, is brought out very strongly in the following table, which shows that in 1901 the total declared value of cocoanuts, cocoanut oil, and soap exported was less by Rs. 155,074 than it was in 1891, and less by Rs. 280,813 than it was in 1896:— Exports of cocoanut produce 1891 to 1901.

Year.	Cocoanuts.		Cocoanut oil.		Soap.		Total value of cocoanuts, cocoanut oil, and soap exported.
	No. of nuts.	Rs.	Hectolitres.	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	Rs.
1891	1,161,839	18,666	14,910	286,978	253,786	54,751	360,395
1892	1,560,950	29,227	13,861	274,289	197,570	41,242	344,758
1893	1,345,800	26,736	13,576	340,270	15,025	4,101	371,107
1894	1,525,532	30,510	13,939	338,784	12,398	3,480	372,774
1895	1,632,860	32,647	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	409,279
1896	1,293,136	26,237	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	486,134
1897	1,492,475	29,849	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	414,627
1898	1,695,236	34,094	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	327,447
1899	983,418	19,667	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	442,286
1900	1,083,302	27,524	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	331,911
1901	1,071,732	26,228	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	205,321

26. It cannot, I am afraid, be urged that the falling off in the value of exports of cocoanuts, cocoanut oil, and soap is due to the large number of cocoanuts used in the extension of cocoanut plantations. It is rather attributable to neglect of existing plantations in favour of the cultivation of vanilla. Admirably suited as are the climate and soil of Mahé, Praslin, La Digue, Silhouette, and many other islands for the cultivation of this valuable orchid, the abandonment or even partial neglect of cocoanut plantations is much to be deplored. In view of the many uses to which cocoanuts can be put, the danger of over-production is slight, but, in the case of vanilla, which, so far, is only used for flavouring purposes, the position is different, and the danger of over-production is considerable. Cause of decrease in export of cocoanut produce.

There is a capriciousness about the yield of vanilla, and even a greater capriciousness about its price, which renders it desirable that planters should have some other products of economic value to rely on when the yield of vanilla is small or its selling price unremunerative.

27. This conclusion seems to be justified by the following statement showing the quantity of vanilla exported from Seychelles, and its declared value at the Customs, from 1891 to 1901:— Export of vanilla, 1891 to 1901.

Year.	Quantity in Kilos.	Declared Value.
		Rs.
1891	40,929	373,190
1892	28,177	394,478
1893	28,869	346,428
1894	24,444	293,328
1895	4,553	60,344
1896	31,227	936,000
1897	30,691	920,730
1898	25,177	748,810
1899	41,835	1,338,720
1900	17,569	580,877
1901	71,899	1,108,792

Nearly the same amount of vanilla was exported in 1891 as in 1899, and yet the declared value of the vanilla of 1899 exceeded the declared value of the vanilla of 1891 by almost Rs. 1,000,000.

In 1901 the quantity of vanilla exported exceeded four times the quantity exported in 1900, and, had prices been maintained, the declared value of the vanilla exported should have been over Rs. 2,000,000, or four times what it was in 1900, but it will be seen that it was not quite twice as much, and, as has been pointed out before, the declared value probably exceeded the actual value. There can, I think, be no doubt that vanilla will

continue to be a valuable product, and it is certain that in Seychelles it has found a congenial home, but it is subject to considerable fluctuations as to size of crop and as to price, and, when estates admit of other products being cultivated with profit, as many do, reliance should not be placed on vanilla alone.

The first year for which there is any record of vanilla being exported from Seychelles is 1877, and in this year the quantity was 60 kilos., valued at Rs. 1,195. The next year, the quantity exported rose to 147 kilos., valued at Rs. 2,950, but fell in 1879 to 8 kilos., valued at Rs. 160. In 1880 the export of vanilla amounted to 1,713 kilos., valued at Rs. 22,877, and from that year Seychelles has never looked back as a vanilla-producing country. Unfortunately, as has already been shown, the attraction of vanilla cultivation has prejudicially affected the cocoanut industry, and the export of cocoanut oil, which in 1880 was 18,993 hectolitres, fell in 1901 to 9,419 hectolitres—a very serious drop.

Export of minor products, 1891 to 1901.

28. Of the other agricultural exports of Seychelles which are at present capable of extension, cloves, cocoa, and coffee are the principal, and in the following table the quantities exported from 1891 onwards, with their declared values, are given. Guano, the export of which will probably be much increased before long, and tortoiseshell are added to the list.

Year.	Cloves.		Cocoa.		Coffee.		Guano.		Tortoiseshell.	
	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Tons.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.
1891	4,831	1,629	5,702	4,714	111	48	4 (cases)	4	2,032	39,059
1892	3,408	1,107	5,779	4,584	—	—	—	—	2,679	53,480
1893	48,682	13,620	7,003	5,602	21	36	—	—	2,402	76,864
1894	8,360	6,838	1,650	1,650	—	—	—	—	1,736	52,080
1895	6,685	2,494	12,043	9,921	201	241	390	9,650	1,802	74,705
1896	837	390	6,794	4,905	158	158	1,133	22,660	1,701	65,760
1897	2,696	1,588	5,714	4,566	627	597	120	2,400	1,522	59,341
1898	3,336	1,002	8,452	6,762	639	639	316	7,912	1,281	40,992
1899	2,515	754	7,891	5,049	4,481	2,688	1,940	19,400	973	30,859
1900	375	89	7,287	6,365	2,565	1,464	3,277	42,159	1,440	35,933
1901	1,630	532	5,163	3,051	543	221	5,598	54,463	835	17,099

(B.) Manufactures and Fisheries.

(C.) Agricultural Industries.

(D.) Grants of Land.

Fisheries.

29. Under these three headings there is nothing new for me to record this year, and I confirm generally the remarks made in the Blue Book Report for 1900.

The Fisheries Ordinances, the proposed passing of which was referred to in that Report, became law as Ordinances Nos. 16 and 20 of 1901, and their scope is given under the heading "Legislation" in the present Report.

Already the good effects of these Ordinances are seen, and the prevention of the wholesale destruction of undersized hawksbill turtle and fish should ultimately lead to a larger export of tortoise-shell, which, it will be seen from the table showing the export of minor products, has much decreased since 1892, and will tend to reduce the price of fish caught for home consumption, whilst increasing the quantity of fish salted for export.

Agriculture.

30. The Curator of the Botanic Station has so fully discussed in his Report for 1901, which is annexed to this Report, the present position of agriculture in Seychelles, and its possibilities for the future, that no further comment from me is required.

Want of labour and want of capital.

But I desire to place on record my opinion that, although the existing supply of agricultural labourers is insufficient, the want of capital amongst the generality of planters, and the impossibility of obtaining advances on reasonable terms are matters of more serious import.

31. Land hunger, if carried to excess, is fraught with much evil. The man who buys an estate with borrowed money, on which he must pay interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, and 3 per cent. commission, with the condition attached to the loan that the borrower must sell his produce to the lender at the "prix courant," thus precluding him from taking advantage of a sudden rise in the market, is seriously handicapped in his efforts as an agriculturist, and has practically bartered his independence in order to become a landowner. But it is seldom that the rate of interest on money borrowed on immoveable property is so low as 12 per cent. per annum, and there are few industries which will, through a term of years, stand even this charge. Owing to the interruption of regular communication by steamers with India, it has not been possible to obtain labourers from that country, but now that there is direct communication with Ceylon by steamers of the German East Africa Company, which call at Seychelles every eight weeks on their voyages to the East coast of Africa, it is hoped that labourers both for estates and for employment on public works may be found in that Colony at lower rates of wages than are required by the natives of these islands.

32. There were no grants of lands in 1901. The island of Curieuse and the Aldabra group of Islands, including the Cosmoledo Group, and Astove and Assumption were leased, on favourable terms, during the year. Leases of Crown Land.

The Government has now very little unleased land to dispose of, and land suitable for plantations, or land already under occupation does not often come into the open market. It seems, however, likely that before long, a few estates may be for sale.

33. I have recently received through the Honorary Secretary and Director of the Imperial Institute, whose courtesy and practical interest in the development of these islands I gratefully acknowledge, an important report from Messrs. Lewis and Peat of Mincing Lane, London, a firm of very high standing, on certain samples of Seychelles products which were exhibited at the Agricultural Exhibition held in September last, and were subsequently forwarded to the Imperial Institute for a reliable report as to their value in the London Market. As this report shows not only the varied but the valuable nature of existing products, I give it in *extenso*. Brokers' report on samples of Seychelles products.

"Cloves. Fine bold large heads, Penang character, red stems, worth about 4½*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.

Pepper. Black, rather light weight, something between Singapore and Penang, about 5¼*d.* to 5⅜*d.* per lb.

Coffee. No. 1. Liberian, bold, well cured, pale colours, about 38*s.* to 40*s.* per cwt.

No. 2. Liberian, very bold, yellowish, but probably broken in the cleaning, about 35*s.* per cwt.

No. 3. Arabica, small Java character, pale, about 48*s.* to 50*s.* per cwt.

Honey. Liquid amber, good flavour, but apparently reboiled, and unfit for bottling, being sugary. Value for manufacturing purposes, about 15*s.* per cwt.

Vanillas. No. 1. 8—8½ inch, good flavour, good colour and condition, well cured, value 20*s.* per lb.

No. 2. 7 inch ditto, value 15*s.* per lb.

No. 3. 7 inch special, chemically cured, rather fresh, and not such good flavour, value 12*s.* to 13*s* per lb.

No. 4. Good bean but old and dried up, lean, value 7*s.* to 8*s.* per lb.

Copra. Fine, sun-dried, sound and sweet, value £20 per ton.

Cocoanut oil. Fine, white, value £35 to £37 per ton.

Cocoa. No. 1. Ceylon cure, very dull and poor, break rather dark, and some unsound; probably left wet too long after washing; about 60*s.* per cwt.

No. 2. Smaller but brighter, better cured, rather dark break, about 58*s.* to 60*s.* per cwt.

No. 3. Mixed colour and break, rather unsound break, about 56*s.* to 58*s.* per cwt.

Mandioca flour. No. 1. About 4*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

No. 2. About 5*s.* per cwt.

Arrowroot. Rather thin and poor colour, about 3*d.* to 3⅛*d.* per lb."

(E.) Shipping.

Comparative tables of shipping.

34. The following four tables show the number, tonnage, and nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the last two years:—

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900 ...	16	2,136	4	321	1	1,234	4	2,434	25	6,115
1901 ...	19	2,984	3	236	—	—	3	1,307	25	4,527

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900 ...	16	2,125	4	321	1	1,234	5	2,686	26	6,336
1901 ...	19	2,565	3	115	—	—	3	1,307	25	3,987

(3.) *Steamers Entered.*

Year.	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese		Spanish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900 ...	70	138,086	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	1	3,149	1	1,120	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	—	—	75	152,455
1901 ...	36	75,850	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	11	22,927	7	50,511	—	—	1	1,376	1	638	1	1,860	64	164,975

(4.) *Steamers Cleared.*

Year.	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian		Portuguese.		Spanish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1900 ...	70	138,086	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	1	3.149	1	1,120	1	400	—	—	1	1,800	—	—	75	152,455
1901 ...	36	75,850	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	11	22,927	7	50,511	—	—	1	1,376	1	638	1	1,860	64	164,975

35. The following tables, which are numbered (5) and (6) for facility of reference, give information respecting the men-of-war of all nations which have visited Seychelles during the last five years, and a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the same period.

(5.) *Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles from* 1897–1901.

Year.	British.			American.			Austrian.			Dutch.			French.			German.			Italian.			Portuguese.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1897	6	15,870	64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	650	6	2	3,292	19	—	—	—	1	729	4	20,541
1898	5	10,890	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2,223	16	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,763
1899	5	9,871	30	—	—	—	1	2,440	10	1	7,000	12	1	2,000	4	4	14,589	78	1	1,399	4	1	2,993	2	40,292
1900	10	27,631	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	8	1	3,149	14	1	1,120	13	1	400	4	1	1,800	12	42,000
1901	4	13,124	12	3	5,283	48	2	3,880	27	—	—	—	1	3,149	28	7	50,511	92	—	—	—	1	638	5	76,585
Totals	30	77,386	233	3	5,283	48	3	6,320	37	2	14,900	20	8	11,171	68	15	71,162	202	2	1,799	8	4	6,160	23	194,181

(6.) *Comparative Statement of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards from* 1897–1901.

Year.	—	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian		Portuguese		Spanish.		Totals.		Total Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
1897	Inwards	56	65,141	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	650	2	3,292	—	—	1	1,404	1	729	—	—	61	71,216	136,435
	Outwards	52	61,149	—	—	—	—	1	803	1	650	2	3,292	—	—	—	—	1	729	—	—	56	65,219	
1898	Inwards	49	60,530	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	65,283	136,306
	Outwards	54	64,766	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	1	1,404	—	—	—	—	64	71,023	
1899	Inwards	46	62,923	—	—	1	2,400	1	7,000	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	4	1,254	1	2,993	—	—	64	96,263	192,178
	Outwards	45	62,839	—	—	1	2,400	1	7,000	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	3	992	1	2,993	—	—	62	95,915	
1900	Inwards	86	140,222	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	4	2,424	1	1,800	—	—	100	158,570	317,391
	Outwards	86	140,211	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	5	2,686	1	1,800	—	—	101	158,821	
1901	Inwards	55	78,834	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,963	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	89	169,502	338,464
	Outwards	55	78,415	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	89	168,962	
	Totals ...	584	815,032	6	10,566	6	12,560	9	36,303	66	65,113	34	147,536	4	3,598	26	15,530	8	12,312	2	3,720	744	1,120,774	1,020,774

36. The decrease in the shipping under tables (1) and (2) is unimportant, the number of sailing vessels entered in 1901 being the same as the number entered in 1900, and the excess of tonnage in 1900 being due to the arrival of a German ship of some size and to the Norwegian vessels which called in 1900 being larger than those calling in 1901.

36A. There are three points of considerable interest in the return of shipping given in tables (3) and (4), one of which is explained by reference to the comparative statement given in table (5). The first is the marked decrease in the number and tonnage of British steamers entered and cleared, which is principally due to the steamers of the British India Steam Navigation Company having discontinued calling at Seychelles; the second is the large increase in the number and tonnage of French steamers entered and cleared in consequence of the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company taking the place, from August, 1901, of those of the British India Company in conveying the mails to and from Seychelles; and the third is the very great increase in the tonnage of German vessels entered and cleared, which is explained by the presence in Seychelles waters of the fleet proceeding to the Far East. This fleet was composed of the battleships "Kürfürst Friedrich Wilhelm," "Brandenburg," "Weissenburg," and "Woerth," and the cruiser "Hela," and their total tonnage was 42,036.

36B. Three American ships of war, on their return from China, also took advantage of the coaling facilities which Mahé affords, and made the easier and better homeward passage from the East *viâ* Seychelles, rather than the shorter and rougher passage direct to Aden.

36C. Provision for the regular inspection of the islands within a radius of sixty miles of Mahé, will be made this year, as, through the courtesy of the Indian Government, a sea-going steam launch, 55 feet long and 11 feet in width, is now being built in the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard at Bombay. Inquiries are also being made with the view of purchasing a suitable schooner. Meanwhile a medical officer has been appointed for the special purpose of acting as Visiting Magistrate of all outlying islands of the Seychelles Archipelago, some of which are between 600 and 700 miles distant from Mahé.

36D. The appointment of a Medical Officer to be Visiting Magistrate will be beneficial, as he will not only administer justice in the islands which he visits, but will also be able to give the inhabitants the benefit of his medical advice and treatment.

36E. The establishment in January, 1901, of a proper and permanent signal station on one of the mountains near Victoria which commands a good view of the surrounding sea has proved

very useful to shipping and a boon to the public, as all approaching vessels are promptly signalled, the signals being repeated at the Port Office. In addition to the ships calling at Mahé, 33 steamers and 3 sailing vessels were sighted from the signal station.

36F. No shipping casualties occurred during the year in the harbour or on the coast of Mahé and the adjacent islands, but the schooner "Maggie Low," registered in Mauritius, was wrecked on the 1st September on the south end of Providence Bank on her way from Mahé to Farquhar Island, which is still a dependency of Mauritius. The schooner became a total wreck, but only one life was lost, that of a sailor who tried to reach Providence Island on a raft. The captain, crew, and passengers were eventually rescued by boats sent from Providence, and were finally brought back to Mahé on the 4th December in a schooner belonging to the owners of Providence.

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. During the year 1901, 18 meetings of the Legislative Council were held, and 21 Ordinances, or 11 fewer than in 1900, passed.

Of these Ordinances the following are the most important:— Principal ordinances.

No. 2. "The Agricultural Board Ordinance," which made provision for the establishment of an Agricultural Board to advise on all questions and matters concerning agriculture or botanical stations and gardens which may be referred to it by the Administrator.

This Board has already done good work, and, being composed of gentlemen who are either actively engaged in or have had experience of tropical agriculture, and presided over by the Curator of the Botanic Station, it is in a position to afford the Government the best local advice obtainable in its endeavour to develope the resources of Seychelles and to foster new industries.

No. 5. "The Patents Ordinance, 1901," which regulates the manner of application for patents and affords protection to persons who have been granted patents for inventions.

No. 6, which renders it lawful for the Administrator to order the detention during His Majesty's pleasure at Mahé or at any other island of the Seychelles Archipelago, of any political prisoner or prisoners deported from the Uganda Protectorate. Under this Ordinance the ex-Kings of Uganda, Mwanga, and Kabarega and their respective wives are now detained in a comfortable residence near Victoria, the capital of Mahé.

No. 7, which makes provision for the administration of Summary Justice in the Seychelles Islands, and the appointment of Justices of the Peace.

The powers given by this Ordinance have been vested in the Assistant Medical Officers stationed at Praslin and in the Southern District of Mahé, and a great boon has been conferred on the residents in those districts.

No. 9, which regulates the construction and working of tramways, facilitates the adoption of proposals for laying down tramways, and protects promoters and companies from malicious injuries to lines and cars.

No. 10, which simplifies and, in some cases, reduces the dues levied on vessels entering or leaving the harbour of Victoria. Under this Ordinance, British or foreign men-of-war or transports, vessels belonging to the Government of Seychelles, private yachts, and vessels touching at Port Victoria without entering the inner harbour are exempted from all dues.

No. 16, which amends the previous law concerning turtles, gives much needed protection to the green turtle or "tortue de mer," and to the "caret" or "hawksbill" (from which comes the tortoiseshell of commerce), prescribes the size at which, and the period during which, they may be killed, and prohibits entirely the exportation or disposal of the famous land tortoises of Aldabra save under such conditions as may seem necessary to the Administrator.

No. 17, a consolidating law dealing with the Post Office, and placing it for the first time on a proper footing. It repeals five previous laws, including a short temporary Ordinance passed in 1900 to enable an internal postal system to be established.

Such a local post was established on the 1st January, 1901, and worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

No. 18, which authorises and regulates inquiries by the Court of Seychelles into shipping casualties and the conduct of ships' officers. In a Colony which has no less than 74 islands included in its Government such a measure was much required, and in December last an inquiry was held, in accordance with its provisions, into the loss of the schooner "Maggie Low," which was wrecked on the South end bank of the island of Providence.

No. 19, providing for the examination in Seychelles of candidates for appointments as sworn land surveyors, and for the method in which surveys should be conducted and substantial landmarks located. The Ordinance also lays down the tariff of fees which sworn land surveyors may claim.

The Fisheries Bill, referred to in paragraph 28 of the Blue Book Report for 1900, became law on the 20th November last as Ordinance No. 21 of 1901. Like Ordinance No. 16 of 1901, which is mentioned above, it was submitted to a representative

committee of experts before being introduced into the Legislative Council, and, in its present form, appears to be well suited to the circumstances of Seychelles. It repeals two Mauritius Ordinances, which, although extended to Seychelles in 1880, had never been published in the Colony. The protection which the Seychelles Fisheries urgently required has now been given without imposing on fishermen undue restrictions.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Improvement in English.

38. The Education Ordinance of 1900 has not yet had time to make its effect fully felt, but the increased attention that is being paid in all schools to the teaching of English is in itself an important result.

The Inspector of Schools in his report for last year makes special reference to the progress made in English and to the greater number of English teachers employed in the Roman Catholic grant-aided schools.

New code. Obligatory subjects. Optional subjects.

39. A complete code for all grant-aided schools has been adopted and published, was brought into operation on the 1st June, 1902, and will be applied to the annual examinations to be held in 1903. Under this code the obligatory subjects to secure a result grant are English and arithmetic only, but recitation from the First Standard onwards, geography from the Second Standard, history from the Fifth Standard, French from the Third Standard, and needlework for girls, from the Third Standard, may be taken up as optional subjects, and success in any one of them, provided passes are obtained in the obligatory subjects, will entitle the school to a grant of R.1 in respect of each successful pupil.

Grants earnable.

40. In addition to a Result Grant, every school can earn grants for the payment of teachers' salaries and for attendance.

English language to be used at examinations.

41. The new code provides that, in Standards I. to V. inclusive, the annual examination shall, as much as possible, be conducted in English, and exclusively in English in the VIth and higher standards. In the optional French subject the examination is to be conducted, when possible, in French. The above-mentioned rule as to language for examination purposes will not be strictly enforced until the annual examination of 1904.

School fees.

42. So far as legislation can secure it, primary education appears to have been placed on a sound footing. Experience alone can show what alterations in the system may be required, but, if any alteration is to be made, it should be in the direction of making the teachers' salaries and attendance grant dependent on the payment of a moderate school fee which nearly all, if not

all, parents can very well afford. Schools are no longer prohibited as they were under the old code from earning grants in the case of pupils paying school fees.

Regulations for Victoria School.

43. But in addition to the grant-in-aid regulations passed last year, suitable rules and curriculum of studies for the Victoria School have been put in force, and the programme of studies for the VIIth and the highest standard at this school is that on which pupils of the Victoria School and of any other school in Seychelles will be examined, if they are candidates for the two annual scholarships of Rs. 600 a year, tenable for three years, either at the Royal College, Mauritius, or at any school in England approved by the Administrator.

Victoria Infants School.

44. In connection with the Victoria School, an Infant School was established last year, and when the two schools are removed to the new premises which are being prepared for them, its sphere of usefulness will probably be increased, and in time it will become a valuable feeder to the Victoria School, sending to it children who can read and write English fluently and correctly.

Results of last examinations of aided schools.

45. The results of last year's examination of grant-aided schools were not apparently so satisfactory as those of previous years. But the explanation must be sought rather in the higher standard required by the Inspector of Schools than in any falling off in the schools themselves. The highest percentage of passes, namely, 81, was secured by the St. Louis (Roman Catholic) Free School; next comes the Baie Lazare (Roman Catholic) Girls' School, with a percentage of 78; then St. Matthew's, Praslin (Church of England), mixed school, with 77; and then St. Paul's, Victoria (Church of England), mixed school, with 73.

Deficiency in school equipment.

46. The Inspector of Schools draws attention to the deficiency in school materials in most schools, and an absence of proper wall-maps. If fees were paid by school children, schools might be suitably equipped, but, as it is, it is difficult for both denominations to meet the heavy expenditure which the maintenance of schools necessarily entails.

Voluntary contributions.

47. No return of voluntary contributions for 1901 was made by the managers of Roman Catholic aided schools. The four Church of England schools in Mahé received, as voluntary contributions, Rs. 2,400, and the two Church of England schools in Praslin, Rs. 972. The total expenditure of these six schools is given as Rs. 5,470.67, and they cost more by Rs. 396.67 than the combined amount of grants earned and voluntary contributions received.

Comparative statement of schools, 1897-1901.

48. In the following table is given a comparative statement for the last five years, showing the number of Roman Catholic and Church of England grant-aided schools, the number of pupils on the roll and in average attendance, and the amount of grants earned. Similar information under the first three headings is given respecting the Victoria School.

—	Roman Catholic.*					Church of England.					Victoria School and Infant School.				
	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
No. of schools	20	21	21	21	23	7	6	6	6	6	1	1	1	1	2
No. of pupils on roll	1,824	1,967	2,129	2,247	2,377	428	376	374	348	343	80	84	106	113	106
No. of pupils in average attendance.	1,345	1,488	1,619	1,717	1,690	303	241	259	241	227	58	62	76	79	82
x Grant earned	Rs. 6,343	Rs. 8,371	Rs. 8,450	Rs. 8,451	Rs. 9,573	Rs. 1,656	Rs. 1,628	Rs. 1,549	Rs. 1,548	Rs. 1,702	NOTE.—The cost of these schools is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff consists of a head master, two assistant masters, four pupil teachers, and schoolmistress for the infant school.				

* These schools include the St. Louis College and Convent paying schools.

x The annual provision for grants to schools was increased in 1898 from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000, and in 1901 from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000.

49. Grants to Primary schools were first given in 1874 under the provisions of Regulation No. 2 of 1873.

50. The following table shows the number of aided schools and the total number of pupils on the roll of those schools as well as of the St. Louis College and the Convent School at three different periods since the year 1874:—

Year.	Number of Aided Schools.	Number of School Children.
1874...	4	421
1881...	12	903
1891...	27	1,905
1901...	27	2,826

Creation of Government, now Victoria School.

51. The Church of England Boys' School in Victoria was transferred to the Government in 1891, and was reopened on the 1st March of that year under the name of the Government Undenominational School. In 1900 its name was changed to the "Victoria School." In the number of school children given in the foregoing table for the years 1891 and 1901 the pupils of this school are included.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

52. The Victoria Hospital, under the directions of the Chief Medical Officer, and with the invaluable assistance of three Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny, of whom one acts as matron in charge, the second as nurse, and the third as housekeeper, continues to give general satisfaction. The services rendered by Sister St. Landri, the matron, during the twenty-six years that she has been attached to the hospital, to which reference has been made in previous Reports, were recognised by her selection in July, 1901, for appointment as an Honorary Serving Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

Hospital statistics, 1897–1901.

53. The following table shows the result of the treatment of patients at the hospital from 1897 to 1901:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1897 ...	98	37	22	14	10	183
1898 ...	126	40	32	13	19	230
1899 ...	190	54	12	8	9	273
1900 ...	112	58	23	12	14	219
1901 ...	147	53	21	17	9	247

The increase in 1898 and 1899 over 1897 in the number of patients admitted to hospital is due to the treatment there of Indian labourers who had been imported in 1898 for employment on the roads, whilst the Chief Medical Officer explains the increase in 1901 over 1900 by the fact that more women than in previous years sought admission to the hospital, and that many persons suffering from pulmonary diseases were admitted for treatment.

Of the deaths which occurred five were those of aged paupers, and the real death-rate was, therefore, even lower than it was in 1900.

The out-patient department was attended by 592 men and 1,942 women, giving a total of 2,534, or 686 more than in 1900, when the total number of out-patients was 1,848. In 1899, the number of out-patients was 2,172; in 1898, 1,319; and in 1897, 2,099.

54. From the medical returns the principal diseases appear to be, as hitherto, syphilis, rheumatism, dysentery and diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems. 28 patients were treated for injuries sustained through accidents. Only two cases of enteric fever were treated at the hospital. Both were imported from another Colony, and one proved fatal. **Principal diseases.**

The fortunate absence of any case of malarial fever, incurred in Seychelles, has again to be recorded.

55. In addition to the public dispensary at Victoria, there are also dispensaries at Anse Royale, the capital of the South Mahé District, at the island of La Digue, and at Baie St. Anne and Grand Anse, in the island of Praslin. The first mentioned dispensary is under the charge of the Assistant Medical Officer and Justice of the Peace of the South Mahé District, and another dispensary, to be under his charge, will shortly be placed at Anse Boileau on the west of Mahé. **Public dispensaries at out-stations.**

The dispensaries at Praslin and La Digue are under the Assistant Medical Officer and Justice of the Peace for the Praslin District.

It is intended, when circumstances so admit, to establish small hospitals at Anse Royale, and at Baie St. Anne, Praslin.

56. The want of a lunatic asylum, referred to in the Report for 1900, has not yet been supplied, but the proposal to build one near Victoria has been approved in principle, and will be carried out when other public works, which are now in hand, have been completed. Meanwhile, Seychelles lunatic patients are sent to the asylum in Mauritius. At the end of last year the number of patients under treatment there was 16. **Proposed lunatic asylum.**

57. The asylum for pauper and criminal lepers is now established at Round Island near Praslin, within two miles of the station of the Assistant Medical Officer; and, on the same **Leper and pauper asylum.**

island, but at a considerable distance apart, there is an asylum for paupers who have no friends or relations able or willing to take charge of them.

On the 31st December last there were 7 lepers and 3 paupers on the island.

Savings Bank, Victoria.

58. The Government Savings Bank in Victoria was opened on the 5th March, 1894, and the total amount of deposits at the end of that year was Rs. 16,914. The rate of interest is 2 per cent. per annum on deposits up to, but not exceeding, Rs. 3,000.

Branch Savings Banks.

59. Branch Savings Banks have been opened at Anse Royale, the capital of the South Mahé District, at Baie St. Anne, Praslin, and at La Digue, but so far the transactions at these branches have been inconsiderable.

Savings Bank statistics, 1897 to 1901.

60. The following table shows the business done by the Savings Bank during the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts open on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs.
1897 ...	167	46	4	63,624.53
1898 ...	191	40	16	44,417.27
1899 ...	214	47	24	70,605.18
1900 ...	221	35	28	61,492.04
1901 ...	243	52	30	58,761.19

The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of last year was less by Rs. 11,794.93 than the amount invested on behalf of the Savings Bank in Victoria and South Australia 3 per cent. stocks, but it is satisfactory to note that more accounts were opened during 1901, and more accounts remained open at the end of the year than at any other previous period.

Want of a Bank.

61. A bank has not yet, I regret to say, been established in Seychelles. I am still of opinion that the trade is sufficient to justify one being opened, and that, if one were opened and conducted on sound principles, it would prove a success.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force.

62. The strength of the Police Force remained the same as in 1900, namely, 60 of all ranks, including an Inspector, a Sergeant-Major, two Sergeants, and four Corporals. The necessity of increasing the force was considered last year, and, to secure more effective patrolling of the country districts and to enable all

police stations to be kept open at night, the force has now been raised to 79 of all ranks, and a sub-Inspector has been appointed and placed in charge of the Police in the Southern part of Mahé. So far the result appears to be satisfactory, but the difficulty in creating a thoroughly efficient Police Force is the limited field of selection for recruits.

63. The following table gives a summary of the criminal and civil cases during the last five years and their results. The figures for 1900 and 1901 include cases heard by the Justice of the Peace, Praslin District. Judicial statistics, 1897 to 1901.

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Court Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1897 ...	565	556	735	592	135	50	118
1898 ...	557	532	758	628	133	64	154
1899 ...	577	563	764	671	133	61	94
1900 ...	870	860	1,096	931	183	85	80
1901 ...	912	899	1,147	959	187	72	69

597 cases were prosecuted by the Police, of which 248 were for drunkenness as against 200 in 1900. It would seem, therefore, as if drunkenness were on the increase. I am, however, inclined to think that this is not the case, and that the number of persons who habitually give way to intemperance is slightly decreasing. The disease of drunkenness is still widespread in Seychelles, and no great improvement can be looked for until education and example do their work.

64. The natives of Seychelles are essentially a law-abiding people, and serious cases of crime are few. There is no dangerous criminal class, the members of which only refrain from active evil-doing when they are confined within the prison wall, and the prisoner of yesterday often, in fact as a rule, becomes the industrious and well-behaved workman or labourer of to-day. Absence of a criminal class.

65. The prison buildings have not been altered since the Report for 1900 was written, but plans for a new prison on the separate cell system have been approved, and arrangements are being made for beginning the new buildings in 1903, if the current Revenue then admits of the necessary expenditure. Prison.

The improvement in prison discipline has been maintained, and the Superintendent of Prisons records in his annual report that "since the introduction of the Mark System Regulations in March, 1900, the conduct of prisoners has very much improved, and they perform their allotted tasks satisfactorily. It is only

in very rare instances that prisoners do not earn the full amount of marks daily."

Book-binding has now been added to the other prison industries, and a good deal of creditable work done in this branch of trade both for Government Departments and for private persons.

Prison statistics, 1897-1901.

66. The following table gives a comparative statement for the last five years of the number of persons committed to prison and the daily average of prisoners in prison:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1897...	301	70
1898...	279	56
1899...	321	50
1900...	315	52
1901...	276	40

Of the 276 persons committed to prison in 1901, 255 were men and 21 were women, being 2 men and 37 women less than the numbers committed to prison in 1900. Only 92 men and 6 women were committed to prison for purposes of penal imprisonment, the remainder undergoing imprisonment in lieu of payment of fines and costs. Of the daily average of prisoners, 38 were men and 2 were women, and the average was lower by twelve than it was in 1900.

VII.—CENSUS AND VITAL STATISTICS.

Census of 31st May, 1901.

67. The results of the Census taken on the 31st May, 1901. have shown that the actual population of the Seychelles Islands on that date was not so large as the estimated population on the 31st December, 1900.

On the latter date it was estimated that the population amounted to 20,275; but the Census Commissioner, in his report, gives the number on the 31st May, 1901, as 19,237, of whom 9,805 are males and 9,432 are females. These figures are exclusive of 21 persons who were on board two foreign ships in the harbour of Victoria and in the waters of Silhouette Island, respectively.

The miscalculation appears to be due to errors which were committed in the annual reports on vital statistics subsequent to the Census of 1891, and up to and including the Report for 1897, and were partly attributable to want of information as to the number of arrivals and departures in each year, or to incorrect information under these heads. The mistakes have been

corrected so far as was possible, and the figures which are now supplied by the Civil Status Office and the Port Office may be accepted as reliable.

68. The following table gives a corrected statement of the population of the Seychelles Islands at intervals of ten years from 1851 to 1901:— Population from 1851 to 1901 compared.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Increase.
1851	3,625	3,185	6,811	—
1861	3,767	3,719	7,486	678
1871	5,793	5,289	11,082	3,596
1881	7,179	6,902	14,081	2,999
1891	8,302	8,138	16,440	2,359
Census of 5th April.				
1901	9,805	9,432	19,237	2,797
Census of 31st May.				

69. It will be seen that, whilst the population has nearly trebled in the last 50 years, I was in error in stating in my last Blue Book Report that the greatest increase had taken place in the last decade, and that, as a fact, the greatest increase occurred in the ten years between 1861 and 1871. Greatest increase between 1861 and 1871.

70. In the following table the results of the Census of 1891 and of that of 1901 are compared as regards the 12 largest islands of the Seychelles Group. This group contains 36 islands, and is distinct from the other groups under the Government of Seychelles, which comprise 38 islands in all:— Censuses of 1891 and 1901 in 12 islands compared.

Island.	Acres.	1891.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
Mahé	35,520	13,351	15,166	1,815	—
Praslin	9,700	1,235	1,621	386	—
Silhouette ...	4,900	377	370	—	7
La Digue ...	2,500	866	1,074	208	—
Curieuse ...	900	35	11	—	24
Félicité	800	42	27	—	15
North	525	51	79	28	—
St. Anne ...	500	35	65	30	—
Denis	340	31	34	3	—
Cerf	290	51	61	10	—
Frigate	275	61	34	—	27
Bird or Sea Cow	160	7	126	119	—
Total ...	56,410	16,142	18,668	2,599	73

The above table shows that out of a total population of 19,237, no less than 18,668 were living at the time of the Census on

12 islands only, and that the number of persons living on the other 62 islands did not amount to more than 569.

Nationalities of population.

71. In the following table the population is divided by nationalities, and the figures of 1901 are compared with those of 1891:—

Nationality.	1891.	1901.
Africans	1,754	1,158
Abyssinians	—	12
Americans...	10	5
Arabians	9	2
Brazilians	—	2
British	14,352	17,698
Chinese	45	98
Dutch	1	—
French	229	187
Germans	4	6
Greek	1	—
Italian	1	—
Japanese	—	1
Malagassies	—	47
Norwegians	—	3
Persians	—	2
Portuguese	28	4
Spaniards	1	2
Swedes	1	1
Swiss	2	5
Turks	2	1
Zanzibaris...	—	3
Total	16,440	19,237

The interesting features of the above return are the decrease in the liberated African slave population, due probably to deaths rather than to other causes, no liberated slaves having been introduced into Seychelles for many years; the considerable increase in the British population; the decrease in the French population; the increase in the number of Chinese, who play so important a part in the retail trade of the Colony; and the introduction of natives from Madagascar, who have probably come by way of Mauritius. There is plenty of room and plenty of labour in Seychelles for these immigrants, and it would be fortunate if other natives of Madagascar, now in Mauritius, could be induced to settle here.

British Indians.

72. In the Census for 1891, the number of British Indians in Seychelles was given as 200. This number had increased at the time of last year's Census to 335, and does not include Indians born in Seychelles or in Mauritius, the latter of whom are estimated by the Census Commissioner to be about 50 in number.

I repeat what I have stated on many occasions, that if the islands under the Seychelles Government are to be fully developed, it is essential that natives of India should be recruited as immigrants to supplement the present insufficient labouring population.

Natives of Seychelles.

73. Of the British population, which numbers 17,698, no less than 16,563 are natives of Seychelles, giving an increase of 2,924 over the number of persons born in the Seychelles Islands as established by the Census of 1891. It has not been found possible and, as the Census Commissioner points out, "it would certainly have been invidious to classify the natives of Seychelles according to colour." At the outside the white population cannot exceed one fourth of the total population, and many persons put the proportion far lower.

Population classified by religious denominations.

74. The religious denominations of the population in 1891 and 1901 are given in the following table. The term "Protestant" includes Anglicans, Methodist and Presbyterian, whilst the term "Roman Catholic" includes "Catholics" and "Apostolic Catholics."

Denomination.	1891.	1901.
Buddhists	43	3
Chinese	not given.	65
Freethinkers	1	2
Greek	1	—
Hindoos	156	389
Jew	1	—
Lutherian Evangelists ...	—	2
Mahometans	73	63
New Church	—	5
Pagans	10	—
Parsees	—	7
Protestants	2,636	2,631
Roman Catholics	13,504	16,038
Shintoists	—	1
No religion	15	25
Not stated...	—	6
Total	16,440	19,237

It will be observed that the increase (2,535) in the number of Roman Catholics, and the increase (233) in the number of Hindoos, making a total of 2,767, only fall short by 30 of the total increase in the population of 1901 over the population established by the Census of 1891.

Population classified by occupations and professions.

75. There is one other table given in the Census Report which it may be as well to reproduce here, and that is the table showing, under six headings, the occupations and professions of the population. As in the case of the other preceding tables, the

classification of the Census of 1891 is given for purposes of comparison.

—	1891.	1901.
Professional ...	241	374
Domestic	1,470	2,128
Commercial ...	445	486
Agricultural ...	3,862	3,780
Industrial	1,742	974
Indefinite	8,680	11,495
Total ..	16,440	19,237

The Census Commissioner has not compared the figures of 1901 with those given in 1891 on account of the unreliability of the previous figures as admitted by the Commissioner of the last Census in his Report, nor do I think that the returns of occupation for 1901 can be accepted as correct. It is incredible that the industrial population, that is those persons who are engaged in some kind of handicraft or industry should have decreased in ten years by no less than 768, and that, out of a total population of 19,237, 11,495 should have no employment. It is true that in the 11,495 are included 500 persons who are returned as independent proprietors or fund holders, 37 prisoners in the Victoria Gaol, and upwards of 100 persons who are suffering from some incurable malady; whilst 46 other persons are accounted for as political prisoners, Government pensioners, etc.; and it is also true that the total includes females who are not employed in any trade, profession, or industry, as well as 2,826 children who are on the roll of different schools, but, after making deductions for the above persons, it must, I think, be concluded that many have allowed themselves to be classified under the heading "unemployed," who, as a matter of fact, are engaged in some definite employment. Poverty in Seychelles, in the sense of the word generally understood, there is almost none, and, if those persons who constitute what is called "the poorer classes" are returned as "unemployed," the probable explanation is that they are principally females who are occupied in looking after household matters in the absence of their husbands, fathers, or brothers, as the case may be, or because they misunderstood the meaning of the word "occupation" or "profession," and were under the impression that if they were engaged in cultivating their own land they had no special "occupation." In a population where the majority can neither read nor write the mistake is not unnatural.

Estimated population on 31st December, 1901.

76. The population of Seychelles on the 31st December, 1901, is estimated by the chief officer of the Civil Status as being 19,343, or an increase of 106 on the results of the Census. This increase is made up of 92 males and 14 females.

Birth and death-rates.

77. The birth-rate in 1901 was 32·61 per 1,000, and the death-rate 18·77, or practically the same as that of London in 1900.

Owing to the errors made since 1891 in estimating annually the total population, the death-rates per 1,000 for 1900 and previous years require adjustment. Assuming that the population on the 31st December, 1900, was 19,011, as is now estimated by the chief officer of the Civil Status, and not 20,275 as previously given, the death-rate for 1900 was 18·28 instead of 17·05, so that the rate for 1901 was ·49 more than the rate for 1900.

Infant mortality.

78. An unsatisfactory feature of the Vital Statistics of these islands is the high rate of infant mortality, no less than half the total number of deaths being those of children under five years of age. The Chief Medical Officer attributes this mortality principally to the increase of pulmonary troubles during the year, from which the children among the coloured population especially suffered owing to their wearing insufficient clothing.

Healthiness of Seychelles.

79. Notwithstanding an epidemic of dengue fever, which broke out in 1900 and continued in the early part of 1901, and an unusually large number of cases of pleurisy, pneumonia, and bronchitis, Seychelles maintained its reputation as the healthiest possession of the Crown within the Tropics.

At an elevation of from 300 to 400 feet above sea level an ideal climate can be found, and even on the sea coast the climate is only trying for two or three months in the year.

Improvements in town of Victoria, and creation of Local Boards of Health.

80. The creation, under Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, of a Local Board of Health for the town of Victoria, with executive powers, and with ample funds at its disposal, has been attended with excellent results, and an improvement has taken place in the streets and general appearance of the town. The water supply has been increased; the scavengering and latrine services are now carried out by a contractor, and the town is better lighted. Local Boards of Health were also created in December last in the islands of Praslin and La Digue, but only entered on their labours on the 1st January.

Vaccination.

81. The vaccination results of last year were again unsatisfactory. From January to May the lymph had to be sent to Seychelles by way of Colombo; and, notwithstanding every care taken of it during transport, it generally arrived in bad condition.

From May to September the mail service to Seychelles was interrupted, but from September to the end of the year, during which time the Messageries Maritimes steamers called at Seychelles every month, the lymph arrived in better condition, and the vaccination results consequently improved.

Out of 454 vaccinations the Chief Medical Officer reports that 200 were successful the first time, 96 the second time, and 37 the third time, and that 121 were unsuccessful.

Quarantine.

82. The alterations effected in 1900 in the Quarantine laws and regulations worked smoothly and well throughout the year. It having been established that rats are mainly instrumental in spreading plague, necessary precautions have been taken to

prevent the introduction into Seychelles of rats, whilst a crusade against rats, the natives of these islands, has been set on foot by offering 5 cents for each rat's tail brought to a Police Station. From the 17th March, 1900, to the 31st December, 1901, no less than 104,494 rats have been accounted for. The destruction of rats has proved beneficial from an agricultural as well as a sanitary point of view, as cocoa-nut and cacao plantations have in the past suffered much from their depredations.

Climate.

83. The following table gives the rainfall and the maxima and minima shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall.	Maximum shade Temperature.	Minimum shade Temperature.
1897	101·98	88·8	71·8
1898	97·63	82·9	77·4
1899	88·42	87·4	70·0
1900	110·75	88·7	74·1
1901	102·26	88·5	68·4

The year 1901 was cooler throughout than 1900, the mean temperature being 78·48 against 79·58 in 1900. The mean temperature for 1898 was 79·40, and for 1899 78·84. The coolest, driest, and healthiest months of the year are from June to October. February was the wettest month, with a rainfall of 16·00 inches; and August was the driest month with a rainfall of only 1·33 inch. Rain fell on 145 days in 1898, on 162 days in 1899, on 174 days in 1900, and on 162 days in 1901.

Wind.

84. The prevailing directions of the wind are S. and S.E. and N. and N.W. The average force of the wind during each month of 1900 and 1901 is given in the following table:—

Month.	Miles per hour, 1900.	Miles per hour, 1901.
January	7	5·9
February	5·6	6·2
March	5	5·1
April	6·1	4·3
May	5·1	5·8
June	9·4	8·9
July	11·6	9·5
August...	13·3	14·2
September	11·6	11·7
October	9·3	7·5
November	7·3	6·3
December	4·7	5·6

The Seychelles Islands, including the Amirantes and Aldabra groups, are all situated outside the hurricane zone, and planters are, therefore, exempt from those losses which are, from time to time, incurred in other colonies whose geographical position is less fortunate.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Increase in postal business and post office revenue.

85. The increase in the Postal business of 1900, to which attention was called in the Blue Book Report for that year, was, it will be seen from the following comparative statement, maintained last year, and the revenue derived from the Post Office Department increased from Rs. 15,043.85 in 1900 to Rs. 23,381.84 in 1901, and was the largest ever collected. The explanations of the increase are given in paragraph 6 of this Report.

Year	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Letters received	12,655	22,530	28,544	57,831	65,210
Letters sent	13,804	33,000	38,040	39,879	48,649
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., received.	4,033	18,930	47,540	59,379	61,167
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., sent.	560	575	6,810	2,750	9,576
Parcels received	273	333	259	393	390
Parcels sent	460	304	392	422	1,369
Totals	31,785	75,672	121,585	160,654	186,361
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	36,661	44,959	62,673	95,295	64,302
Money Orders paid	41,225	14,194	22,325	16,315	22,107
Totals	77,886	59,153	84,998	111,610	86,409

That in five years the total number of postal articles received and sent should have increased nearly six times is a noteworthy fact.

Transmission of Vanilla by parcel post.

86. The increase in the number of parcels sent and the decrease in the value of money orders issued are both due to the unusually large amount of vanilla forwarded by parcel post, vanilla being sent as a cheaper form of remittance than money orders.

On insufficient grounds the amount of vanilla to be forwarded by any one person or firm by any particular mail was limited in June, 1898, to ten kilos. This restriction was removed in February, 1901, and although the weight of any packet of vanilla must not exceed five kilos, the number of packets to be sent as

postal parcels by any person is unlimited, subject to the reasonable condition that the parcels are deposited at the Post Office three days before the scheduled date of departure of the mail steamers, so that there may be one clear day for having the parcels packed. Vanilla to the amount of Ks. 5,040.590, the declared value of which was Rs. 110,572.84, was exported by parcel post in 1901.

Inland postal service.

87. In paragraph 87 of the Blue Book Report for 1900, reference was made to the arrangements for an inland postal service, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1901. During last year 12,778 letters and 5,058 newspapers were conveyed through the medium of the inland post, but as 2,505 letters and 1,334 newspapers were either received from abroad or posted for abroad in the country districts, these letters and newspapers are also included in the number of letters and newspapers received and sent which is given in the foregoing table.

The results of the inland postal service in 1901 compare very favourably with those obtained in 1893 and 1894, when an inland postal service was in operation for nine months. Then the total number of letters sent through the local post was only 553, and the service came to an end on the 31st July, 1894.

The cost of the local post in 1901, including the wages of postmen and all incidental charges, and payment for the conveyance of mails to and from Praslin and La Digue, was Rs. 1,629.20 and the revenue only Rs. 728.10, leaving a deficit of Rs. 901.10; but the convenience to persons living in Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue of being able to send letters through a properly organised local post more than counterbalances the loss of revenue which has occurred. The increasing number of letters sent through the local post affords grounds for hoping that the service will soon become self-supporting, and the introduction of an inland money order system, and the registration of letters passing through the local post will help to secure this result.

Mail service.

88. The arrangements with the British India Steam Navigation Company, Limited, for a monthly mail service from Colombo to Mauritius calling at Seychelles en route and from Mauritius to Aden by way of Seychelles were terminated by the Company on the 4th February, 1901, after exactly one year, but were renewed up to May, 1901, the last mails brought to Seychelles from Colombo arriving by the S.S. "Vadala," on the 17th May.

From the 17th May up to the 20th August, when through the courtesy of the Commander, mails were brought to Seychelles from Mauritius by the Portuguese gunboat "Rio Lima," no European mail reached Seychelles. Every endeavour was made by the Colonial Government to enter into a new agreement with the British India Steam Navigation Company for a suitable mail service, but the annual subsidy of £13,000 asked by the Company for a monthly service between Bombay and Zanzibar,

Seychelles being made a port of call both ways, was beyond the means of the Government, and the negotiations dropped.

Subsequently arrangements were made with the Messageries Maritimes Company that their steamers which leave Marseilles on the 25th of each month, and which call at Aden, Diego Suarez, and Tamatave on their outward voyage to Mauritius, should touch at Seychelles both on the outward and homeward voyages, the Company receiving 2,000 francs for each call and the steamers being exempted from all harbour dues.

The annual rate of payment for this service is Rs. 28,880, and the service may be said to have begun with the arrival at Mahé on the 8th August of the S.S. "Iraouaddy" on her homeward voyage, but mails were not received from England by a steamer of the Company until the arrival of the S.S. "Calédonien" on the 11th September. Since that date the mail service has been performed punctually, and the voyages to and from Marseilles only occupy 18 days.

The service is, however, not convenient for the trade with India, which country sends Seychelles upwards of a third of the latter's imports, and formerly took one-sixth of its imports, and it is to be hoped that steamers of the British India Company will continue to call occasionally at Seychelles.

The steamers of the Imperial German East Africa Company, which proceed from Rangoon to Mombasa *viâ* Colombo every eight weeks, now call at Seychelles on their outward and homeward voyages to the great advantage of these islands.

89. Through the courtesy of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company I am able to furnish a comparative table of the total number of cablegrams received and sent for the last five years: — Telegraph statistics.

Year ending 31st March.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Number of cablegrams received and sent.	1,745	1,767	1,967	2,244	2,399

Of the total annual subsidy of £28,000, payable for 20 years by the Imperial Government to the Telegraph Company, under an agreement dated the 29th March, 1893, for the maintenance of telegraphic communication between Seychelles and Mauritius and Seychelles and Zanzibar, Seychelles pays annually £1,000 and Mauritius £7,000, so that the actual amount paid by the Imperial Government is reduced to £20,000.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Demise of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

90. Of the principal events of the year 1901 there is one which overshadows all others—the passing of Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

A nation in mourning for its Sovereign has been seen before; but history shows no precedent for the grief displayed in every part of the globe at the death of the Great White Queen.

And yet mingled with the sorrow of the Empire, which the rest of the world shared, was the proud satisfaction that the work of the Queen for nearly sixty-four years had been well and truly done; and that in welcoming to the throne King Edward VII. and his Gracious Consort, their subjects did so with the deep-rooted confidence that the beneficent influence of the Sovereign would remain unchanged, and that there would be no alteration in the position of Crown and people, which had, during the Victorian Era, tied fast the bonds of mutual confidence, affection, and respect.

Imperial and Local Memorials.

91. To the Imperial Memorial in London in loving memory of the late Queen, Seychelles, in common with other Colonies has been permitted to contribute its share, and a local memorial will shortly be erected in the capital of Mahé, to which the Queen gave her name.

Public works.

92. The year 1901 was an exceptionally busy one for the Public Works Department, several much needed buildings having been erected, and two new water supplies at out-stations having been laid down during the year.

Road work.

93. But the principal work was the continuation of the construction in Mahé of roads, the cost of which was defrayed from the loan of £20,000, and the maintenance and improvement of existing roads. Not only was the programme of roadwork for the year carried out, but additional work was taken in hand, and the road system in Mahé at the end of 1901 showed a very considerable improvement on its condition two years before. The loan will be exhausted this year, and the cost of further road construction must be defrayed from general revenue funds. I estimate that, in order to meet the growing demands for new roads, a further sum of Rs. 100,000 must be expended. But if there is no falling off in the annual revenue, there is no reason why this expenditure should not be incurred, only care should be taken not to attempt too much in any one year.

Exhibition of September, 1901.

94. One event of local interest deserves special mention in this report. I refer to the first Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held in Seychelles.

This Exhibition was opened on the 19th September, and remained open for the two following days. The exhibits numbered 224, and included the best specimens of all the products

of Seychelles and objects of interest and handiwork properly classified under various headings. When the proposal to hold an exhibition was first mooted, some persons showed a curious reluctance to take any part in it, but the object of the exhibition having been explained, the reluctance disappeared, exhibits from all parts of Seychelles were forthcoming, and the exhibition attained an unexpected measure of success. It has now been decided to hold in September, 1903, a second exhibition, and the programme of exhibits is being prepared by the Agricultural Board.

95. The future of Seychelles depends on the development of its agricultural industries, and the increase of those products which command a ready and constant sale in the European market. To assist in this development is the aim and ambition of the Government. It is also its duty, and in the fulfilment of this duty Administrators and public officers will find full scope for their energies for many years to come. Future prospects of Seychelles.

E. B. SWEET ESCOTT,

Administrator.

Government House,

Seychelles, 12th July, 1902.

ANNEXURE.

REPORT FOR 1901, by CURATOR OF BOTANIC STATION, SEYCHELLES

I.—SOIL.

Origin of the Seychelles Islands.

1. The Seychelles group is a collection of small granitic islands very different from those of more common madreporic and volcanic origin which are found in their neighbourhood.

It is supposed that they formed part of a vast continent formerly situated between Madagascar, Africa, India, and the Moluccas, to which the English naturalist Sclater has given the name of "Lemuria." This suggestion is based on the fact that many insects and plants in Seychelles belong to the same flora and fauna as those of some East Indian and African countries.

Composition of rocks.

2. The rocks of the Seychelles Islands are gigantic and extremely varied in their composition, which is principally either granitic or syenitic. Many eruptive rocks of a more recent formation, such as, for example, porphyries, diorites, diabases, melaphyrs, and even dolerites are mixed with the granite. Most of the latter rocks are of finer grain, sometimes darker in colour and resembling basalt.

Formation of the soil.

3. All these rocks have been decomposed on the spot and transformed into laterites, to which is attached the formation of nearly all the soils of Seychelles. The decomposition of granite has led to the formation of the common red argillaceous soil impregnated with particles of quartz. The decomposition of other

Clayey soils

rocks deprived of quartz, such as diorites, diabases, &c., has produced uncultivable clayey soils which are, in some cases, good for pottery purposes.

Landslips.

4. As many rocks which do not readily decompose are found above these argillaceous soils, it happens that under the action of rain, which is practically unchecked since the whole country has been deforested, landslips occur.

Many still recall the landslip of 1862 which deposited several acres of land on the beach of Victoria. The same inconsiderate deforestation causes many tons of good soil to be washed down daily to the sea by the rivers, the waters of which remain long discoloured by humus, after the passage of showers.

Transported soils.

5. These transported soils are, however, exceptional, and it is principally the argillaceous soils above-mentioned with which the planters have to deal. These argillaceous soils, when situated

Sandy soils.

on sloping ground and after being cultivated for some time, soon lose the greater part of their clay and are transformed into gravelly and sandy soils, the subsoil a few inches below the surface remaining clayey.

Madreporic soils.

Soils of madreporic origin are sometimes situated at the foot of the granitic islands and contain guano deposits. These soils are so placed that they receive a great part of the clay washed down from the mountains, with the result that a special soil is formed, very fertile, containing

lime and sand originating from coral, phosphates and nitrogen from the guano, and clay from the granitic boulders of easy decomposition.

6. Sometimes the madreporic sands are deposited by the sea at the mouths of rivers which, in their turn, carry down the soil of the highlands. Deposits are formed in opposite directions, the course of the river is deflected, and marshy lands are formed, madreporic on one side, granitic on the other. Marshy lands.

7. A few analyses have been made of most of these different classes of soils. They are as follows:— Composition of the different soils.

A. Mechanical Analysis.

—	1. Air dried soil.						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Fine soil	51·0	55·7	68 6	56·7	65·7	60·2	64·2
Gravel	49·0	44·3	31·4	43·3	34·3	39·8	35·8
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
	2. Air dried soil 0/0—gravel removed.						
Moisture	6·10	9·25	13·92	9·50	8·33	8·17	10·24
Coarse sand	60·30	48·62	47·99	58·40	46·84	50·56	41·39
Fine sand	20·65	21·36	26·40	21·75	19·72	31·53	30·33
Clay	12·95	20·77	11·69	10·35	25·11	9·74	18·04
Humus	0·32	0·00	0·83	0·20	0·00	0·58	0·00

B. Chemical Analysis of the air dried soil 0/0—gravel removed.

—	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Nitrogen	0·184	0·092	0·226	0·094	0·060	0·144	0·077
Phosphoric acid ...	0·108	0·217	0·032	0·032	0·035	0·080	0·064
Lime	0·140	0·000	0 025	0·025	0·034	0·051	0·033
Magnesia	0·050	0·000	0·000	0·000	0·000	0·014	0·000
Potash	0·024	0·051	0·050	0·015	0·024	0·035	0·041
Ferric Oxide and Alumina.	14·500	16·850	11·900	9·450	16·250	13·350	6·400
Sulphuric acid ...	0·090	0·058	0·000	0·000	0·000	0·000	0·000

5. Soil No. 8 is the surface soil of a depression of ground placed in the centre of North Island. The following is the result of its analysis made by Mr. Boname:

Specific gravity ... ... 0·791.

A. Mechanical Analysis

Air dried soil.

Fine soil	94·0	
Gravel and coarse organic matter	6·0	
	100·0	

B. Chemical Analysis of fine soil.

Nitrogen	0·45
Phosphoric acid	14·30
Lime...	15·50
Ferric Oxide and alumina	8·90
Potash	0·06

With the exception of soil No. 8, which is an ideal garden soil, all the others have been collected at the Botanic Station. Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 6 are surface soils, and Nos. 2, 5, and 7 are subsoils taken 6 inches beneath the surface.

Absence of potash.

Potash is not present in sufficient quantity in these soils, although some of them are of an argillaceous nature. This deficiency is, in my opinion, due to the bad methods followed by native planters in the cultivation of ground provisions. Whenever the natives start a plantation they burn all the weeds and rubbish on the ground selected, and as this process is repeated every year some of the potassium salts are solubilised and washed out of the soil by the rains.

Absence of lime and phosphoric acid.

Lime and phosphoric acid are also wanting in these soils as in all soils of granitic origin. It is wonderful to think that nature has placed very near them, and sometimes above them, abundant supplies of guano which are turned into heavy masses of lime and phosphoric acid by the action of rain.

Utilization of poor soils.

8. What nature has done may serve as a guide to the planters of Seychelles for the cultivation of their land. With the aid of some potassium salts (which are wanting in the guano deposits) and the organic matter supplied by cattle, or, perhaps, for the present, by green crop manures, the granitic sands of this colony can be improved into cultivable soils.

Qualities of sandy soils.

9. Sandy soils can easily stand the introduction of any extraneous fertilising agent. It is this characteristic which lends them their great adaptability for cultivation. But on the other hand in the tropics where moisture, warmth and rain are excessive (as is the case in Seychelles) the drawback to sandy soils in cultivation is to be found in their being sometimes overheated, in their being deprived of their active constituents by heavy showers, or in the ready growth of parasitic fungi, which find an easy prey in the roots of delicate plants. Trees and hardy plants, on the contrary, being far less readily affected by fungi, rain or warmth, will thrive abundantly in the above-named soils, provided they are properly manured.

II.—CLIMATE.

Weather observations.

10. The meteorological returns registered at the Port Office, which is situated at the end of a pier about 200 yards long, show that the climate of Victoria is not so moist and warm as is generally believed There are many months which can be considered as dry months. The relative humidity, whilst never low, is far from being excessive, and the average temperature in the shade in any month seldom exceeds 86. As a rule, however, the oscillations of the barometer, thermometer, hygrometer and pluviameter are not great from one month to another or from one year to another. This regularity in the climatic manifestations exerts a beneficial influence on vegetation.

Hardly anywhere in the tropics is there a country of a more refreshingly green aspect than that of Seychelles, and it is this luxuriance of vegetation which generally leads travellers to consider these islands as a veritable paradise. As regards climate the impressions of travellers are, of course correct enough, but we have just seen how many poor soils exist here. It is a pity that the influence on vegetation of such a good climate is not supplemented by a soil of good chemical composition.

Formerly when the soils of Seychelles were not yet exhausted by improper methods of cultivation and by inconsiderate deforestation, agricultural enterprises must have been very successful.

Sudden changes of weather.

11. Although the climatic observations are very similar from one month to another all the year round, there are many sudden changes of temperature and moisture on the same day brought about by heavy showers of rain and by alterations in the direction of the wind. These sudden changes have also an influence on the growth of plants, and it would not be without interest to measure them properly by means of self-registering instruments.

The influence of rainfall on cultivation

12. A rainfall of about 100 inches per annum is not really excessive, for there are many other places in the tropics where the rainfall is heavier. None the less many people imagine that it is useless to manure plants on account of the fertilising agents being washed away soon after their application. In some cases this will, of course, occur, but there is hardly any place in the tropics in which the same thing does not happen, especially in localities situated within the zone of hurricanes and cyclones. I see no reason why high manuring should not be adopted in Seychelles where tree planting forms the ordinary cultivation, provided some leguminous plants be allowed to grow between the trees to form a regular mulching of the soil, and provided also that carefully graded contour drains be built so as to prevent loss of soil.

Parasitic diseases and unequal crops are frequent when fertilization is not carried on properly. Manuring is now based on well-known laws, and every planter must bear in mind the most important of them all which states that "if the minimum required by a plant of any constituent be not obtainable in the soil, all others are in vain and the plant cannot be grown."

III.—AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

Manures. a. Guano.

13. With regard to the manuring of the soil, it is very fortunate that, in a granitic country like Seychelles, guano deposits are found in many of its islands. This guano constitutes at the same time a mineral wealth of the Colony. The deposits are almost invariably ancient, and guano beds are in process of formation only in distant islands where immense flocks of birds are

still to be found. On many islands the guano is found in dusty layers on the surface of the soil. This surface guano is dark in colour, especially when it is moist. There are numerous tints, which vary between yellowish brown and reddish black. The lighter-coloured guanos are richer in phosphoric acid, and the dark ones are full of organic matters which increase the percentage of nitrogen. All this surface guano is now more or less mixed with vegetable decay.

Under the action of rain, and in presence of the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, the phosphates of lime are dissolved and sink through into the soil, displacing the carbonates of lime where the island is madreporic, thus forming a second layer of mineral guano, which is generally lighter in colour, and the richness of which in phosphoric acid reaches, and even exceeds, that of the surface guano. Where the island is granitic, and where clay is mixed with the guano deposits, the phosphates of lime in a soluble state take the place of the silicate of alumina, and a phosphate of alumina is formed. Sometimes the transformation of phosphate of lime into phosphate of alumina is complete, and no molecule of phosphate of lime remains undecomposed.

Even the granitic rocks which are found in the sub-soil of some islands are attacked by the solution of phosphate of lime; and when the surface of these rocks is analysed to an inch or more in depth it is found that all the phosphate of lime has penetrated and transformed the rock which sometimes contains as much as 25 per cent. of phosphate of alumina.

All these different phosphates originating from the guano deposits are found in immense quantities, which I estimate as over several hundreds of thousands of tons. On the same island very different kinds of guano deposits are found, and scientific investigations are rendered necessary when the extraction of guano is started. I have analysed on the same island the following deposits:—

	Water.	Organic matters.	Mineral matters.	Phosphoric acid.	Nitrogen.
1.	4·42 ...	16·50	84·10	2·8	0·6
2.	3·18 ...	7·54	89·30	6·1	0·4
3.	16·60 ...	56 42	26·98	6·1	2·9
4.	3·26 ...	6·36	90·38	6·6	0·4
5.	3·92 ...	11 10	85·10	8·1	0·6
6.	5·60 ...	9·58	84·80	8·7	0·5
7.	6·18 ...	9·90	83·92	16·2	0·4
8.	6·08 ...	4·20	89·72	17·8	0·3
9.	7·56 ...	5·64	86·80	19·0	0·4
10.	7·54 ...	12·14	80·32	19·7	0·7
11.	7·36 ...	10·98	81·66	21·7	0.5
12.	6·92 ...	11·00	82·10	21·9	0·5
13	10·46 ...	11·06	78·48	28·0	0·7
14.	12·56 ...	9·30	78·14	27·4	0·4
15.	10·16 ...	13·06	76·78	28·0	0·7

Some of the above-mentioned guanos are exported to Mauritius, South Africa, and Europe, and, as the phosphoric acid they contain is very soluble in citrate of ammonia, they are much appreciated everywhere. When they contain less than 20 per cent. of phosphoric acid they are very seldom exported on account of their not being able to bear the cost of freight, as the price they fetch depends on the quantity of phosphates they contain. These poor guanos remaining in Seychelles will always form an important reserve for the agricultural development of the Colony.

b. Seaweed.

14. Another source of manure is to be found in the deposits of seaweed which are washed up in some places during the N.W. monsoon and in others during the S.E. monsoon. The component parts of these weeds very nearly approach those of good farm manure, but with a greater percentage of potash, and it is well known what wonderful effects they produce in the cultivation of granitic countries like the coast of Brittany in France.

Want of capital.

15. It is rather surprising that, notwithstanding a good climate and so many sources of manure, agriculture in Seychelles seems to be in a backward state. This is due no doubt to absence of capital and to the abnormally high rate of interest at which alone the planter is able to secure advances. If means could be adopted of obtaining capital at reasonable rates to help the planters, the present industries of the island would, in a short time be extended, whilst others would be established.

Want of labour.

16. Again, owing partly to absence of capital, labour is very scarce in Seychelles. Many labourers have been employed by the poorer proprietors as "metayers" and the result is that it is now very difficult to rely on the former labourers, who, having become half proprietors, naturally look askance at the less lucrative hire system.

The labourer of Seychelles is a negro of fine physique, and it is a pity to see him avoiding situations for which he is admirably fitted.

The necessity of importing labourers is now becoming urgent, and the only countries from which reliable immigrants can be obtained are India and Ceylon.

Labour Enquiry Committee.

17. A fully representative committee was appointed at the end of 1900 to inquire into the question of the scarcity of labour, but no practical solution of the question has so far been arrived at, as planters are unwilling to import labourers unless the entire cost of their introduction is borne by the Government.

IV.—VEGETABLE RESOURCES.

Tree cultivation recommended.

18. Both from a climatic and from an economic point of view, the cultivation of trees and hardy plants should be preferred to that of other plants. Except in the numerous islands where

guano deposits are to be found, the cultivation, with a view to exportation, of cereals and pulse such as maize, rice, yams, beans, dholl, lentils and ground nuts should not be recommended. These plants require a great amount of cultural treatment and food in the short time of their growth, and, unless these requirements are satisfied, the crops are always inferior.

Fortunately, owing to the absence of cyclones in Seychelles, it is easy to select those trees and hardy plants which are suitable to its soil and climate.

At present vanilla and cocoanuts are cultivated for exportation. The cultivation of cocoa, cloves, and coffee has been almost entirely abandoned, after having succeeded for some time. To this list of plants we may add those which deserve a good place next to them if new industries are to be started in Seychelles.

(A.)—Foodstuffs.

Cassava and sweet potatoes.

19. Cassava (Manihot utilissima) and Sweet Potatoes (Convolvulus Batatas) are grown by the natives, and constitute together with bread fruit the basis of their food. The yield per acre is very low, and, as the natives generally set fire to the hillsides before planting, the cultivation of these two plants may be considered to be very exhausting and the principal cause of the soil being carried off towards the sea. Potatoes do not grow well. Near the sea they are inclined to become "shade trees," and the soil being over-heated the tubers germinate before reaching a proper size. They grow better on the hills especially under screens.

Potatoes. *Solamum tuberosum.*

Jerusalem artichoke. *Helianthus tuberosus.*

Experiments have been made with the Jerusalem artichoke at the Station, and the results are very promising.

Yams. *Dioscorea.*

Many yams grow wild in Seychelles attaining enormous dimensions. They do not seem to be generally esteemed as a dish.

Tuberosus coleus.

Tuberosus coleus should be tried. This plant, which is a native of Abyssinia, has been called the African potato, and is much preferred by Europeans to the sweet potato and Jerusalem artichoke.

Yam bean. *Dolichos tuberosus. Arracacha esculenta.*

Many dolichos are thriving in Mahé. The yam bean (dolichos tuberosus) yielding an edible root would succeed if cultivated. The beans are also edible. The arracacha are umbelliferae resembling the common parsnip, and would grow well on the highlands.

Viandzeia subterranea.

The Madagascar ground-nut is extensively cultivated and much appreciated by the natives. It produces a bean very nourishing to men and to animals.

Sago palm. *Sagus Rumphii.*

The sago palm would be successful if cultivated on these islands where many palm trees are already established.

Arrowroot grows very well and is much utilised locally. If exportation is attempted for this product it should not be forgotten that pure water, cleanliness and great care in its preparation are essential. Arrowroot. *Maranta Arundinacea.*

(B.)—Spices.

20. A species of this plant grows wild in Seychelles—Vanilla Phaloenopsis. It can be seen everywhere from the seashore to the summits of the mountains thriving abundantly and producing its very handsome flower, which is much admired by visitors. It is strange that the presence of this wild plant did not induce the planters of this Colony to start, at an earlier date, the cultivation of vanilla, which was introduced from Mauritius only about 30 years ago. Many planters, at the head of whom was Brother Lucien of the Roman Catholic Mission, introduced great improvements in the cultivation of vanilla in Seychelles, and the well-known system of pruning, described by Delteil in Bourbon, has been everywhere adopted without injuring the vines. Vanilla. *Vanilla planifolia.*

Plantations are now grown on separate props, and about 1,500 vines go to an acre. Planting in rows has been abandoned, as disease is easily communicated from one vine to another when this method is adopted. The vanilla disease is usually sporadic and intermittent in its character, and the numerous fungi which cause it are saprophytic rather than parasitic. They are parasites only when certain climatic conditions, hitherto not well defined, occur. Vanilla is not manured in Seychelles, but it is desirable that an experiment should be made here where this valuable orchid has found favourable conditions of growth rarely met with on the same scale in other Colonies.

As regards the manuring of orchids, however, the European orchid growers are by no means decided, although many experiments have been made lately by Messrs. Romain, Truffaut, and others which go to show that these plants grow much better when manured by weak solutions of fertilisers, and often suffer from want of the necessary mineral constituents in the soil. Mr. Grandeau has advised the manuring of vanilla and has suggested the following type of manure for an acre:—

Slag	400 kilos.
Calcareous sands	800 kilos.
Chloride of potassium	200 kilos.
Nitrate of soda	100 kilos.

It is noticeable that vanilla growing on Liberian coffee trees which have been previously manured seems to be more luxuriant than that growing on other soils, and that in some islands where deposits of guano are found this orchid reaches dimensions elsewhere unknown. This shows that like all plants vanilla may be subjected with profit to some good method of manuring. An experimental plantation on the hills, where cultivation on tripods

can be undertaken, along with cultivation on props, would be of great interest to the planters. Cultivation on tripods is possible only when trees for shade are not absolutely necessary, and experiments in manuring vanilla could then be carried out without the necessity of taking into account the part of the manure absorbed by the props.

The curing of vanilla has been much improved in Seychelles, and at the Agricultural Exhibition of September, 1901, there were samples of vanilla of the very finest quality.

Cacao. *Theobroma cacao.*

21. Only about 8,000 kilos. of cacao are now annually exported from Seychelles to Europe. Nearly all the plantations of cacao have been neglected for vanilla, which the Seychelles planter finds easier to work, and, as a rule, more profitable. This sacrifice of all other products for vanilla proved successful so long as vanilla was only grown in comparatively few places; but, at the present time when vanilla, the consumption of which is, and must always be, limited, is grown with success in many parts of the world, a return to the cultivation of cacao, the consumption of which is rapidly increasing, is desirable.

Cacao is successfully cultivated only in those parts of the tropics where the rainfall reaches 100 inches a year, and where the annual mean temperature is about 80. Those colonies which possess these climatic conditions, and Seychelles is one of their number, will always have the monopoly of this industry.

Cacao is in great demand in Europe and its price on the market is at the present time so high that the margin of profit for planters is very high. Many colonies have applied to the Seychelles Botanic Station during the last twelve months to be supplied with good pods for establishing plantations, and these colonies will soon become competitors on the European market. In Seychelles, however, plantations have been in existence for a long time and many estates are provided with the remains of very fine groves. Planters who have continued the cultivation of this tree derive material profit from it.

Competition with other colonies which are only starting plantations is then easy, owing to the natural resources of this Colony, and especially to its division into small islands where measures can be adopted to circumscribe diseases or to prevent their introduction. Planters should restore the old and neglected cacao trees by carefully pruning them after the crop, by removing deadwood, mosses, and parasitic plants, and by properly draining and forking the soil.

Manuring must also never be lost sight of, for, if many plantations have still now full-bearing trees with a great many pods ripening at the same time, there are other plantations which are less promising and which could be manured with profit.

The variety which is cultivated is the Forastero cacao. The Criollo variety is not to be found on any of the estates which I have been able to visit. The Seychelles cacao is good and was

formerly much appreciated by a chemist who had a chocolate manufactory at Réunion. The objection is sometimes raised in Seychelles that cacao cultivation is impossible on account of the destruction of the pods by rats. It is true that these animals do much harm, but their ravages are not confined to Seychelles. There are other Colonies which, in addition to the destruction of the pods by rats, have to bear the attacks of other animals fond of cacao such as squirrels and parrots, and of the dreadful disease called the cacao canker.

Very little, in my opinion, is done in this Colony to prevent rats from injuring cacao trees. Ordinary poisons such as arsenic, phosphorus, strychnine, mercuric chloride, and "Rough on Rats" will do in most cases, and especially if tins in the form of a cone are attached to the trunks of the trees, and each estate is provided with a good rat-catcher, who might be paid his wages out of the 5 cents which the Government offers for each rat's tail.

I do not think the day is far distant when a bacterial disease will be communicated to rats in the tropics in the form of a poison similar to that of Mr. Danysz which has succeeded so well in Europe.

22. Pepper grows wild in Seychelles and deserves a good place among the minor agricultural products. Owing to its geographical situation this Colony should be able to compete with the products of Sumatra, Java, Cochin China, and the Moluccas. Pepper *Piper nigrum.*

This plant should always be propagated from cuttings, as seedlings are difficult to grow. Care must be taken in choosing the extremities of the vines as cuttings, and they should be marked with a knife so as to prevent the bad end ever being placed in the soil. I have seen many unsuccessful attempts at propagation of pepper owing to the absence of this precaution. When the vines have reached six feet long they should be tied to supporting trees and pruned once a year to the same height.

23. There are a few nutmeg trees in Mahé. Some of them growing in the grounds of Government House in a poor soil have been introduced from Mauritius. This plant is well adapted to the climate and soil of the Colony where the absence of cyclones makes good returns certain. In the West Indies nutmegs are sometimes destroyed by hurricanes, and still this plant is extensively cultivated there. Nutmegs. *Myristica fragrosus.*

The plants at Government House bear nuts small in size and bad in shape, but steps have already been taken at the Botanic Station to provide planters with better varieties coming from the East Indies. As much as from £30 to £40 can be obtained sometimes from an acre of nutmegs.

24. Clove trees were introduced into Seychelles in 1771 from the Moluccas through care of Poivre. Formerly there were immense plantations of this tree, and I have been told that those Cloves. *Caryophyllus aromatica.*

planted close to Victoria were felled comparatively recently to serve as fuel in a cocoanut fibre factory.

At the present time cloves are not really cultivated, and even the existing crops on the few trees which are still to be met with on nearly all estates are not always gathered.

Not more than from two to three thousand kilos. are exported annually to Mauritius and Europe.

The soil of Seychelles, being of an argillaceous nature and derived from laterites, is most suitable to clove plantations, but in many localities this soil, being deprived of organic matter, must be manured so as to ensure the regular bearing of the trees.

At the Agricultural Exhibition referred to above, there were many good samples of the Seychelles cloves, which proved that the curing of this spice is very well understood. There is such a great difference in price between good and bad cloves that many Colonies such as Penang send their produce to the European market in wood boxes and fetch four times the price which is obtained by other clove-producing countries.

Cardamom. *Elettaria cardamomum.*

25. This spice has been already tried in Seychelles with success. There are two varieties of cardamom, the Malabar and the Mysore. The Mysore variety is most productive at a higher elevation. A fine but loamy soil and a certain amount of shade are essential for this plant. The banks of the numerous rivulets found in granitic countries are most suitable for it. It can be propagated from bulbs or seeds. A crop is obtained in three years' time, but full bearing commences at five years; 300 lbs. can be obtained in the fifth year. Good unsplit fruits realise in Europe 7*s.* to 9*s.* per lb. In India split ones are sold at from 12 annas to R. 1.

Chillies. *Capsicum minimum.*

26. Chillies grow wild in some parts of the Archipelago. I remember having seen at Flat Island a few acres of land covered with them and producing fruits of great pungency. The presence of guano on that Island renders the cultivation of chillies easy, and I think that a marketable produce can be obtained.

Many other parts of Seychelles are suitable for the cultivation of chillies which calls for no special skill or trouble. The pods are simply picked when ripe, sun-dried, and packed in vacoa bags. Chillies, besides their use as spice, are required for medicinal purposes, especially those of great pungency.

(C.)—Drugs and Narcotics.

Coffee. *Coffea.*

27. There are many localities in Seychelles most suitable for the cultivation of Arabian coffee, especially those valleys situated at about 1,000 feet above sea level where the effects of the leaf disease are never serious. These valleys are sometimes planted with cocoanut trees, although on such sites this palm will never prove as remunerative as coffee.

Liberian coffee is found also on many estates thriving abundantly. Its produce is more or less unsold. It would have a better sale if it were prepared in the cracked state, that is in a thoroughly dry condition after being directly gathered from the trees, and then forwarded to a central factory provided with the necessary pulping and curing materials.

There are many other coffee trees which could be introduced into Seychelles for cultivation. Among such may be mentioned:

1. The improved varieties of Java.
2. The coffea stenophylla.
3. Hybrids (Arabica and Liberian.)

The hybrid coffee especially, which resists the leaf disease, has the advantage of producing berries little if at all inferior to Arabian coffee.

Each of these new coffees could be grafted on Liberian coffees already established on estates where very fine plantations of the latter can be seen growing free from all disease.

28. Tobacco is a very good minor product, which can be exported to Mauritius where it is already more appreciated than the locally-grown tobacco. **Tobacco.** *Nicotiana tabaccum.*

This plant likes sandy soils and a moist and warm climate. Its cultivation should be carried on in all parts of Seychelles where the supply of humus in the soil is sufficient.

A variety of Cuban tobacco with a coarse leaf has already been introduced and this variety is well adapted for cultivation during the rainy season. Sometimes the Seychelles tobacco is very strong from want of oxidation of the nicotine. Experiments should be tried in submitting this strong tobacco to a very high pressure by which the juice is brought from the interior of the cells to the surface. The tobacco is then taken out, dried, and the juice is re-absorbed. This process is repeated daily for ten consecutive days.

29. Cinchona would grow on the heights of Seychelles. Improved varieties should be obtained from the East Indies where the cultivation of this plant has been carried on scientifically for a long time. **Cinchona.**

30. Kola plants should be planted at low elevations, not above 1,000 feet. Cacao soils are suitable for growing kola, which is allied to the former by botanical and physiological affinities. A flourishing specimen of kola can be seen at Anse Etoile about three miles from Victoria. **Kola.**

This plant in full bearing, *i.e.*, from its 5th to 10th year, and with attention, can produce 150 lbs. of nuts a year, and the nuts are sometimes sold at 1*s.* per lb. To cure the nuts for export they only require to be taken out of the pods and subjected to careful drying until they are quite firm and hard.

The small quantity of tannin contained in them as compared with tea and coffee may be an advantage from a dietetic point of view as also the absence of fat (which has to be removed from cacao during the process of manufacture).

These properties will probably cause the consumption of kola to increase.

Erythroxylum coca.

31. There are two varieties of coca. One can be cultivated on a small scale on the heights of Seychelles, the other can be grown near the sea. Many plants of the same family are indigenous to Seychelles. They require soils rich in humus and they should be exposed to the sun. The leaves are used in the preparation of cocaine and wines with stimulating properties. In tea very young leaves are picked; in coca, on the contrary, the largest and most matured leaves are gathered and dried in the shade. Dried leaves are sold in Europe at about 8*d.* per lb.

Cubeb. *Piper cubeba.*

32. The cultivation of cubeb is similar to that of pepper. The berries are gathered before they are quite ripe and dried with the stalk attached. The consumption of this product has increased in recent years.

Cephaelis. Ipecacuanha.

33. Ipecacuanha is a perennial plant which can be propagated easily and which thrives in moist and warm countries; its produce is easily sold.

Cinnamomum camphora.

34. Camphor is now used industrially for converting collodion cotton into celluloid. The tree is very ornamental and the wood very valuable for cabinet work. Sandy soils with a good percentage of lime and potash are necessary for the successful cultivation of this plant which is grown in hedges or along roads.

Cinnamomum.

35. Cinnamon was introduced long ago into Seychelles and it is now utilised as props for vanilla vines. According to Mr. Horne, the late Director of Forests and Gardens, Mauritius, it is not the good variety which is cultivated in India and Ceylon, and the produce is of little value

(D.)—Oil Seeds.

Cocoanut. *Cocos mucifera.*

36. The cocoanut which is a South American palm is thriving in Seychelles. The geographical situation of the Colony will always prove of great advantage to the cultivation of this tree, the various products of which are more and more easily sold in Europe.

The cocoanut trees in many islands of the Archipelago yield only 36 nuts per tree, and about 80 or 90 trees go to an acre. The produce per acre is thus hardly worth more than Rs. 48 counting the value of the nuts at 2 cents each. This result can be improved, for in some colonies as many as 60 nuts are obtained per tree per annum.

In Seychelles cocoanuts are frequently planted on unsuitable soils, for example, on clayey soils sometimes situated on the summits of mountains where no humus is to be found. The best soil for this tree is a sandy soil rich in humus. When such a soil is not to be found, an artificial one must be made by having recourse to manures.

A formula which can be tried on sandy soils is the following:

Farm manure	25 per cent.
Sea weed	50 per cent.
Seychelles guano	25 per cent.

In clayey soils lime, salt, and sand must also be employed as manure.

Another well-known practice which is much neglected here in planting nuts is the establishment of a nursery where properly selected nuts should be sown, and from which only the most promising plants should be transplanted to the groves. At present no selection is made and the plantations produce a series of very different nuts which causes the average yield per acre to sink.

37. A butter is now made out of cocoanut oil and has the following composition as compared with milk butter:— Cocoanut butter.

—	Cocoanut butter.	Milk butter.
Casein... ...	—	0·72
Fat	99·97	84·90
Water... ...	0·02	14·22
Ash	0·01	0·16

The degree of saponification of this butter is very high (258.5), and unlike all other animal and vegetable fats its adulteration is impossible.

Cocoanut butter has also been proved to be free from germs and also to be a very unfavourable nutrient medium for micro-organisms.

38. Desiccated cocoanut is also now manufactured on a large scale in India and Ceylon, and is sold in England and Germany for confectionery purposes. Desiccated cocoanut.

39. If labour becomes cheaper at some future date coir for brush and mat making could be started in this Colony. Cocoanut coir.

40. Seychelles, unlike many other colonies, does not export coprah. Oil is made locally and about 50 per cent. is extracted from dried coprah. The poonac is used locally as fodder for animals. Coprah.

The following are analyses of Seychelles coprah and poonac which have been recently made by Mr. Boname in Mauritius:—

—	Coprah.				Poonac derived from	
	Fermented.		White.		Fermented coprah.	White coprah.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Water	6·04	6·26	8·58	8·42	14·12	15·10
Ash	1·50	1·52	1·52	1·54	3·90	3·90
Cellulose	4·62	5·14	7·56	8·00	6·04	8·46
Oil	65·30	65·90	63·80	62·90	22·20	25·50
Non-nitrogenous matter ...	12·98	12·12	10·92	11·02	34·74	30·54
Nitrogenous matter ...	9·56	9·06	7·62	8·12	19·00	16·30
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00
Nitrogen	1·53	1·45	1·22	1·30	3·04	2·64

The percentage of oil contained in the coprah and poonac does not allow an extraction of much above 50 per cent. Generally the planters are under the impression that they extract 4½ velts of oil from every 100 pounds of coprah. A velt weighing 6.731 kilos., the extraction they are supposed to obtain is therefore 61.57 per cent. This figure is certainly an exaggeration, and is in fact never obtained. Coprah does not contain more than 66 per cent. of oil, and poonac contains between 22 and 25 per cent.

Extracting 50 per cent. of oil (which is generally sold in Mahé for about R. 1.60 the velt or ten bottles), and supposing that coprah yields above one third of its weight in poonac, the money produced from 100 pounds of coprah can be stated as follows:—

4 velts (maximum) at R. 1.60	Rs. 6.40
40 lbs. poonac at Rs. 4 per cent. ...	R. 1.60
	Rs. 8.00

At Zanzibar it appears that 100 lbs. of dried coprah are sold at Rs. 11 for exportation.

If part of the coprah was exported from Seychelles, I think that many planters would obtain a very fair return.

A certain quantity of oil should always be made locally for the soap industry which is flourishing, and the poonac derived from the locally-manufactured coprah should be kept as food for animals.

41. Poonac is of great value as fodder. The two above analyses show that it contains:— Poonac.

—	1.	2.
Nitrogenous matters ...	19·00	16·30
Non-nitrogenous and fat	56·94	56·04
With a nutrient ratio ...	1/3	1/3·4

The quantity of poonac produced in the island is not large enough to export it regularly to Mauritius where its high value as fodder would be much appreciated in sugar estates on which the animals often suffer from want of proper food.

42. The palm oil tree is very well adapted to the soil and climate of Seychelles. It should be planted on alluvial soils or marshy ground near the sea. Propagation must be made from offshoots that appear at the base of the trees. The fruit takes from 4 to 5 months to develope. The oil is extracted both from the pericarp of the fruit and from the kernel. The kernels are dried also in the sun and cracked between stones for export as palm kernels. Palm oil. *Elaiis guineensis.*

Although the oil of this palm is sold at a cheaper rate than the cocoanut oil, the yield per acre in suitable localities is greater and more than compensates the planter for the difference of price.

43. The ground-nut grows very well, and should be cultivated in those sandy islands rich in guano deposits where all cultural operations could be conducted by instruments and machines. Ground-nut. *Arachis hopogea.*

There are wheel hoes now manufactured in America which can do the work of half a dozen labourers working in the ordinary way.

Ground-nut oil is in great demand and constitutes an immense source of profit for the West African planters.

44. The castor oil plant grows wild. The seeds contain an oil which is sometimes extracted by the planters for their own use. Castor oil. *Ricinus communis*

45. A valuable oil can be extracted from the seeds of the Takamaka, a very handsome timber tree. It should be in great demand if manufactured in sufficient quantity. It has numerous medicinal uses. The following is an analysis made by Mr. Boname of the kernels of seeds gathered at Curieuse Island:— *Takamaka, Calophyllum* or *Inophyllum.*

Water	32·80
Oil	41·40
Organic and mineral matter	25·80
	100·00

46. Many specimens of the candle-nut tree are found all over the islands. Candle-nut tree. *Aleurites triloba.*

Gingely oil. *Tesamum medicum.*

47. The gingely oil plant should be grown in Seychelles, as its seeds produce an oil which is employed for adulterating almond and olive oil, and the bye products of its manufacture are valuable as fodder or manure.

(E.)—Dyeing and Tanning Materials.

Mangrove. *Rhizophorus.*

48. This tree is common in Seychelles. The bark contains nearly 20 per cent. of tannin. In Jamaica it is mixed with the leaves of divi-divi for use in tanneries.

Divi-Divi *Casalpinia pulcherrima.*

49. A few plants of the divi-divi can be obtained at the Botanic Station. The pods are in great demand for tanning purposes.

Canaigre. *Rumex hymenosepalum.*

50. The roots of the Canaigre contain nearly 35 per cent. of a tannin which has been found to more closely resemble gambier in its action than any other tanning material.

Gambier. *Uncaria gambier.*

51. This plant is a shrubby creeper, whose leaves produce the best tannin on the market. The gambier of commerce is an earthy-looking substance agglutinated in cubes or masses. It is best adapted to rainy countries and would very likely thrive in Seychelles. It is grown from seeds and a small crop of leaves is obtained at the end of the first year. 700 plants go to an acre. The production of leaves lasts from 20 to 30 years, and a crop is reaped twice a year. The leaves are boiled for an hour and then squeezed with the hand; the decoction is then evaporated to the consistency of a thin syrup which crystalises in cooling. As it thickens it is dried in the shade and cut into cubes.

Gambier is also used for medicinal purposes and to give beer a dark brown colour. The tannin is much appreciated on account of its special re-action with lime in the early steps of tanning being so different from other tannins.

Indigo. *Indigofera tinctoria.*

52. Although growing well in Seychelles, indigo requires a special system of cultivation and manipulation, and, if it is to be taken up, it must be cultivated on a large scale.

Annatto. *Bixa orellana.*

53. Many plants of annatto are found near the huts of the natives in several of the villages. It is from the pulp which covers the seeds that the dye is obtained. The pulp is made into a paste in water and then dried into cakes. The paste fetches from 5*d.* to 1*s* 8*d.* per lb., and is employed principally for cheese colouring.

(F.)—Fibre Plants.

Bowstring hemp. *Sanseviera.*

54. Some specimens of bowstring hemp have already been introduced into Seychelles and are found growing on the roadsides. The fibre is used for cordage.

55. The agave should be introduced from the Bahamas. It is one of the best fibre plants and the yield of leaves is double that of the aloe. Agave. *sisalana.*

56. The two Fourcroya of Mauritius are already established in this Colony. A ton of fibre is, at the present time, worth about Rs. 400. Aloes. *Fourcroya.*

57. The ramie would find here an excellent climate for its growth, and its conversion into fibre could be conducted locally with the newly-discovered machines. Unfortunately this industry requires a large supply of labour. Ramie. *Boehmeria nivea.*

58. Many hibiscus are indigenous including H. Tiliacus (Var.) which is a fibre-producing tree requiring but little attention for its growth and manufacture. Hibiscus.

59. The taeca pinnatifida, which was introduced probably from Madagascar, grows wild everywhere in the Seychelles group. *Taeca pinnatifida.*

60. The dianella reaches a great height,—often as much as 10 feet— alongside the rivers. Dianella.

61. Many varieties of this plant are indigenous. Bags are already made and exported to Mauritius for packing sugar. The Seychelles soap is also packed in them. The cultivation of this plant should be extended. Cuttings can be made out of the branches and planted in swampy soils. Pandanus.

62. This hemp should be experimented on in Seychelles, although it has never succeeded in any other country except the Philippines from which it is exported. Manilla hemp. *Musatextilis.*

63. The Kapok grows everywhere in the islands, and should be propagated as props for the cultivation of pepper. Kapok. *Eriodendron anfractuosum.*

64. Many sterculia are found in Seychelles, some of them producing a good wood for cabinet work. Sterculia.

(G.)—Fruits.

65. Few plants are cultivated in Seychelles for their fruits. The following is a list of the fruit trees which have been already introduced:— Fruit trees.

Tamarind	Tamarindus Indica
Banana	Musa sapientium
Orange	Citrus aurantium
Lemon	Citrus medica
Lime	Citrus limetta
Shaddock	Citrus decumana
Avocado pear ...	Persea gratissima
Mango	Mangifera Indica
Bread-fruit	Artocarpus incisa
Rima	Artocarpus incisa var.

Nutmeg	Myristica fragrans
Otaheite apple ...	Eugenia Malaccensis
Cashew	Anacardrium occidentale
Grapes	Vitis vinifera
Cherimoyer	Anona cherimolia
Soursop	Anona muricata
Custard apple ...	Anona reticulata
Sweet sop	Anona squamosa
Guava	Psidium guava
Pine-apple	Ananas satira (5 varieties)
Pomegranate ...	Punica granatum
Durian	Durio Zibethinus (two trees at Government House, one of which has borne fruit this year).
Almond	Terminalia catappa
Water melon ...	Citrullus vulgaris
Jack fruit	Autocarpus integrifolia
Ground-nut	Arachis hypogea
Carambol	Averrhoa carambola
Bilimbi	Averrhoa bilimbi
Golden apple ...	Spondias dulcis
Loquat	Eriobotria japonica
Candle-nut	Aleurites triloba
Date	Phoenix dactylifera
Baobab	Adansonia digitata
Papaw	Carica papaia
Litchi	Nephelium litchi

Small attention is given to these fruits. A few oranges are exported to Mauritius without being properly packed. Preserved bananas are also sometimes exported to the same Colony where they are sold at a remunerative price.

Bananas.

66. The banana is dried by simple exposure to the sun. In a moist country like Seychelles it would be better to have them exposed to an atmosphere of sulphurous acid gas and prepared by means of American fruit drying machines so as to give the produce a more attractive appearance and a uniform colour.

Neglected cultivation of fruit trees.

67. All other fruits are grown for local consumption only. The trees are never manured, in spite of the numerous fertilising resources of Seychelles and of the well known effect of such agents on the flavour and size of fruits.

Absence of selection.

68. Good varieties are never selected for propagation. Mangos, litchis, &c., are principally propagated from seeds, and bear, after a long time, only inferior fruits. Attempts are sometimes made to increase the productiveness of fruit trees by cutting into the stem and main branches of the trees. This process is useless and noxious, and a much better result may be obtained by pruning the roots.

Root pruning.

This operation consists in digging a trench 2 feet wide round the tree and in cutting off all the roots which sink perpendicularly into the soil. The trench is then filled up with good soil.

69. Nearly all the different species of oranges grow in Seychelles. Shaddocks, sweet oranges, bitter oranges, Bermagot oranges, Tangerine oranges, lemons and limes all grow very easily, as they are well adapted to the moist and warm climate. These fruits should be exported on a greater scale to Mauritius and Aden where the climate does not permit of their being grown. Oranges.

70. The lime (citrus medica var. acida) is very widely distributed all over the islands, and bears abundant crops both on the sea shore and at the highest elevations. Some fruits are now exported to Mauritius both in their natural state and preserved in salt water. Limes.

The abundance of this fruit tree should induce some planters to start a lime juice and essence factory. Citrate of lime should also be made for exportation, but this salt never keeps a long time and it would be better to adopt, for the present, the old system of concentrating the juice to a viscid state, and to pack it in barrels or demijohns which should be hermetically sealed before exportation. Lime industries.

71. Special mention must be made of the pineapple which has found in this colony a climate and soil most favourable to its growth. Pine-apple.

There are five varieties, three of which grow wild on the mountains, two red varieties and one dark.

The two others are table varieties known here and in Mauritius as Victoria and Maingard. The Maingard which is probably the smooth cayenne, although introduced from Mauritius, reaches in Seychelles dimensions quite unknown in the other Colony without special cultivation. Enormous fruits of 15 lbs. and even 20 lbs. are sometimes seen, and are sold locally with great profit. Regular plantations of this valuable plant should be made and good varieties selected. Fruits of such size can easily be exported to Europe at a time when the competition of most of the other Colonies, except the Azores, is stopped; the bearing season in Seychelles being from November to January, although fruits of an inferior quality are also obtained during the remainder of the year. If the shipping facilities are not sufficient for a regular exportation, some fruits only might be exported to Europe, and the remainder either forwarded to Aden or sold to the steamers calling at Mahé.

The physical characteristics of the soil, combined with the slope of the hills which ensures a perfect drainage, render land in Seychelles especially suitable for the cultivation of pine-apples. Planting is sometimes carried on here without choosing good suckers as cuttings, and the crown or head of the pine is generally preferred. In the West Indies, where the pine-apple industry is in a flourishing condition, it has been proved that, if

the crown takes 21 months to bear, the suckers from another plant will take abou[illegible] twelve months.

Fruits suitable for introduction.

72. There are many other fruits which can be introduced into Seychelles, where from the sea shore to the summits of the mountains different climates are found most suitable to the West and East Indian and even to some European trees.

The following should be recommended:—

Ficus carica. Figs will thrive in valleys and mountains near the sea.

Ceratonia siliqua. The carob tree furnishes a very nutritious food both for human and animal consumption.

Cyphomandra Betacea. The fruits of the tree tomato, which is a native of Peru. The fruits are eaten as chutney, or they may be fried or stewed or converted into jam.

This plant is better adapted to the climate of Seychelles than the ordinary tomato.

Achras sopota. Achras sopota or sapodilla is a very good fruit, common in the West Indies and in Bourbon.

Passiflora laurifolia. Pomme d'or.

Passiflora macrocarpa. Granadilla.

Spondias purpurea. Jamaica plum.

Mammea Americana. Mammee apple.

Garcinia mangostana. Mangosteen.

Eugenia Brasiliensis. Brazil cherry.

Bertholletia excelsa. Brazil nut.

Phoenix dactylifera. The date palm will thrive only in those islands of the Archipelago where the rainfall is small. It should never be propagated from seeds but only from suckers of well known origin.

(H.)—Rubber Trees.

Rubber.

73. A tree planting country like Seychelles must afford a place for this interesting class of plants which is now only in its experimental stage, and which would prove of great profit to this colony.

There are many indigenous rubber and gutta percha trees in Seychelles, among which we may mention:—

Tabernaemontana (Bois de lait).
Northea Seychellana (Capucin).
Imbricaria Seychellarum (Natte).
Takamaka.
Ficus, different varieties.

The presence of these plants, especially the gutta percha trees, which are now very scarce as the whole country has been deforested, proves that the introduction of other species of greater economic value might be made with profit.

Some rubber trees have been already introduced. The Ceara Rubber (Manihot Glaziovii) and the Assam Rubber (ficus elastica) are thriving well.

Ceara rubber. *Manihot Glaziovii.*

Two Ceara Rubber trees, grown on Mount Sebert Estate, which were supposed to be Para Rubber trees, were tapped in July. These two trees of about four years old were growing in a rich soil in a small depression of ground and were about 24 inches in girth at the time of the experiment.

Although many incisions were made, only ten cubic centimetres of milk were obtained and coagulated in presence of acetic acid, producing a small piece of good rubber.

This rubber tree has been proved to yield very little rubber in rich soil and is considered as a tree well adapted to poor soils. Seeds obtained from Mount Sebert Estate have been sown at the Botanic Station and the seedlings obtained were transplanted in January to a very poor soil. The plants are growing rapidly, one of them being already more than 10 feet high.

Assam rubber. *Ficus elastica.*

There are four Assam rubber trees of about 20 years old at La Misère. They have been tapped twice; the first time, during the dry season, and the second time in October. Each time an abundant yield of very thick latex was obtained and collected in hand basins containing a determined quantity of water with a few drops of ammonia to prevent coagulation. A clot of very fine rubber (60 per cent. of the milk) was obtained by boiling the solution in presence of acetic acid and creosote. It was dried and forwarded to Europe with a view of ascertaining its approximate value on the market.

Since that time an immense Assam rubber tree was discovered near Victoria, measuring about 12 feet in circumference and covering an area of more than 7,000 square feet. This rubber tree has also been tapped and a very good sample of rubber has been obtained and forwarded to Europe. It is now being propagated at the Botanic Station, and, as its requirements with regard to soil are not great, it could be utilised as a shade tree nearly everywhere on the island.

The other rubber plants which should be introduced are the following:—

Panama rubber.

1. The castilloa elastica which is a tree suitable for low-lying flat ground. It has been introduced into the West Indies with success. Tapped twice a year from the fifth year, this rubber tree will yield one lb. of rubber per annum, and the coagulation of its latex is so easy that it can be carried on by means of centrifugal machines. Vanilla and cacao cultivation can be mixed with that of Panama rubber trees which must be allowed in turn a high and well-distributed shade.

Para rubber. *Hevea Brasiliensis.*

2. The Hevea Brasiliensis can be grown in localities where nothing else could be profitably cultivated, such as river banks which are inundated, marshy lands, and sand deposits. Its natural habitat is the mouth of the Amazon, where the climatic conditions are exactly those of Seychelles.

West African rubber.

The funtumia elastica yields a very good rubber which stands near to Para in value and is adapted to poor soils at low levels, which are commonly found in Seychelles.

Rubber vines.

Landolphias can be planted to cover rocky and uncultivable grounds. Close planting in rubber plantations is necessary to obtain straight stems which allow an easy running of latex in tapping. As much as 5 to 10 lbs. of rubber per annum is obtained from each tree in well established plantations.

All these plants will soon be placed at the disposal of planters. Great care has been taken in introducing into Seychelles the very best varieties of rubber trees as well as of gutta percha trees, some of which are also valuable as timber trees.

(I.)—Miscellaneous.

Saccharum officinarum.

74. Sugar cane grows easily in Seychelles where a popular cider ("Bacca") is made by the fermentation of the juice extracted by means of the well known Malagasy wood roller, or even by cocoanut mills.

New varieties of cane derived from seedings should be introduced from Mauritius where some of them are richer in juice and quicker in growth than the old varieties.

Formerly a very good spirit was manufactured at Frigate Island and sold even in Europe.

All the rum is now imported from Mauritius where this article is produced at an exceedingly low price.

In 1900 the importation reached 69,000 litres. This figure is too low to justify the establishment of a rum distillery, as 100 acres of land in cane would produce this quantity of rum. But a distillery would be of great advantage to the Colony if a special beverage could be made and exported like the Angostura bitters of Trinidad. The production of alcohol at a low price in a colony must also be taken into consideration on account of its many industrial uses.

Scents.

75. There are many timber trees and plants in Seychelles which can yield perfumes.

Hesperia populnea.

The Hesperia populnea or Bois Porcher gives a brown essence. The flower buds and unripe fruits yield a viscid juice useful as a dye, and a red coloured oil is also extracted from the seed.

Carissa Seychellensis.

Sandal wood. The wood of this valuable timber tree yields an oil much sought after in pharmacy and perfumery.

Many other plants such as:

Ilang Ilang (Cananga odorata).
Vetivert (Andropogon muricatus).
Patchouli (Pogostemom patchouli).
Geranium (Pelagonium capitatum).

and above all lime trees would yield essences, as the vegetable productions of this Colony are endowed with this property to a marked degree.

V.—BOTANIC STATION.

Site of station.

76. The question of establishing a Botanic Station in Seychelles was raised many times during the last twenty years, but it was not until the arrival in November, 1899, of His Honour E. B. Sweet Escott, C.M.G., the present Administrator, that any real attempt was made to carry the project into effect on a practical basis.

A Botanic Station Enquiry Committee was appointed early in 1900, and it was decided that the station should be established on a temporary footing for three years. A sub-committee, principally composed of gentlemen interested in agriculture, selected a site of six acres on Hermitage Estate, which is the only large estate in the immediate vicinity of Victoria. This site formed part of an old and neglected plantation of cocoanuts between which ground provisions had been cultivated for years by a labourer of the estate. The piece of land being covered with shrubs and weeds at the time of its selection it was difficult to see exactly the nature of the soil and its possibilities. When these shrubs and weeds were removed, a very great number of granitic boulders, covering the ground in all directions, were found, and it was then ascertained that the soil had been washed by rains after repeated cultivation of ground provisions.

There only remained a sub-soil of a gravelly nature, and a few patches of surface soil where nursery beds have now been established.

On account of the poorness of the soil and owing to its relative unsuitability for general cultivation, it was suggested to look for another site. But, though every effort was made, it was impossible to find in the valley in which the town of Victoria is situated any other piece of land where the three conditions necessary for the establishment of a Botanic Station were united; namely, central situation and easy access, homogeneous soil, and a good water supply.

The upper end of the Victoria valley is very fertile, and although some part of it formerly belonged to the Government there is no piece of land now available for sale at a reasonable price.

Close to the Rochon River a good homogeneous sandy loam is found near the sea, but that piece of land, which is flat, is divided into many properties and is more than a mile distant from the centre of the town. Behind the Cathedral, the Roman Catholic Mission have in their possession a small property much less exhausted by cultivation than the part of Hermitage Estate and which could be leased at about the same price, but this plot of ground is also hilly and the water supply is insufficient in the dry season. The present site is one of the best for establishing a Botanic Station in Seychelles, but the poorness of its soil, the

presence everywhere on the grounds of huge boulders of hundreds of tons in weight will necessitate an amount of work and labour which the Botanic Station Committee did not fully contemplate when they proposed the establishment of the station on a temporary footing for three years.

Experimental plantations.

77. It is to be hoped that some of the proprietors of Seychelles will place at the disposal of the Curator pieces of land of their own for carrying on experiments, for, unless this is done, it will be necessary to enlarge the site of the Botanic Station.

If it is found necessary to enlarge the Station, it would, perhaps, be best to secure a piece of land situated on the other side of the Trois Frères River where water could be supplied by one of the reservoirs of Victoria.

This piece of land is not far distant from the disused turtle pond where a second entrance to the station could be made, thus allowing a circular promenade from the middle of the town to Mont Fleuri through the Botanic Station.

Work done at the station.

78. The following work has been done at the Station during the past year:

Clearing grounds.

1. Clearing the grounds for the first two months.

Establishment of nurseries.

2. Laying out a nursery in the high parts of the ground so as to utilise seeds brought from Mauritius. This work took more than a month on account of the removal of huge boulders, some of which had to be blasted.

Coolies' huts.

3. The construction of the coolies' huts by the labourers themselves who went to Praslin to cut the necessary wood in the forest. A labourer was left at the Botanic Station during the absence of the others to water the plants in cultivation.

Field experiments.

4. The establishment of three fields, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, for experimenting on the action of Seychelles guano and for studying those plants which had some chance of becoming acclimatised.

A great many varieties of seeds have been sown in these three fields. They were received from England, India, Ceylon, and Mauritius. The action of guano and the effects of the climate were for the most part studied on vegetables on account of the rapid growth of these plants and the short time required for the various experiments.

Vegetable growing.

79. The climate of Seychelles has a most violent action on the growth of plants coming from temperate climates. The young leaves are burnt during the hot hours of the day. Many lettuces and tomatoes were thus prevented from growing, but the same plants, when placed in sheltered situations and near rivers where the temperature of the air is lower, have succeeded well.

This experiment proves that delicate plants must be grown under screen shadings until they have become acclimatised.

With regard to tomatoes especially, the acclimatisation of plants seems to play a great part. Seeds from England produced plants which grew only a few inches before being blackened and burnt, but seeds from Mauritius and even from some parts of Mahé, where tomatoes are cultivated, produced plants which completed without trouble all the phases of their vegetation. Unacclimatised plants suffer especially at the time of blossoming, when all the immediate constituents are brought to the flowers and when the food requirements of the plants are greater.

Action of sun.

80. When the temperature is higher, *i.e.*, during the N.W. monsoon, the burning action of the sun is greater, but during this season caterpillars are far less numerous than during the S.E. monsoon, and so plants can be cultivated which are generally placed out of cultivation by destructive insects.

Action of guano.

81. The experiments which were made with guano proved most interesting in some cases. A few plants, such as the Hibiscus esculentus, produced flowers when only a few inches high in a poor sandy soil, which, after being manured with guano containing a large quantity of organic matter, produced plants whose petioles were longer than the height of the whole plant growing without guano. A papaw tree manured with guano and cow dung also produced fruits of 8 and 10 lbs. in weight after six months' growth, at the end of which time seedlings of the same origin but not manured had not produced a single flower.

Action of manures.

82. The action of manure in the poor sandy soil of the Station is so marked that not only the output of the plantations is increased but a great deal of time is saved by using it.

Indian seeds.

83. All the vegetable and flower seeds of India on which I experimented had lost their germinative powers and seemed to be seeds purchased in Europe and kept a very long time before being forwarded to destination. It is a great disadvantage that there is no good seed establishment in the tropics where fresh seeds can be purchased a short time after having been gathered.

Localities for gardening.

84. Well sheltered spots on the hills, from 500 feet upwards, are best suited for the cultivation of vegetable and flower plants. Near the sea shore the insects are more numerous and give much trouble, and some plants, such as potatoes, are so much overheated during their growth that some tubers, although unripe in appearance, and still very small, germinate in the soil.

Insecticides.

85. The insecticides which can be used with success in gardens near the sea shore are the following:

For vegetables:—

a. Solution of Rilley.

Petroleum	...	...	...	2 gallons.
Water	...	...	...	1 gallon.
Soap	...	...	...	½ lb.

This is mixed with from four to twenty times its bulk of water and should be well stirred before being used.

b. Tobacco refuse.
c. Pyrethrum powder.

For flowers:—

a. London purple.
b. Paris green.

Scale insects.

86. The scale insects are extremely numerous in Seychelles, and all fruit trees suffer to a great extent from their attack. The treatment by the gas derived from potassium cyanide under an air-tight tent would be fatal to them. As a rule, however, fruit trees suffer more when they are grown in poor soils, and proper manuring will always lessen the injury done by scale insects.

Sowing cases.

87. *5. Establishment of a shed for sowing seeds.*—This shed was found necessary because heavy rains uprooted seedlings which are only transplanted when the roots are well formed. The cases in which seeds are sown must be often removed from the sheds, when the weather is favourable, because fungi grow rapidly in this climate when sun is not admitted freely.

Fernery.

88. *6.* The laying out of the banks of the Trois Frères River where a fernery has been started.

Nearly all the indigenous ferns and orchids have been collected in the forests and planted there together with a few specimens of plants such as arum, maranta, dieffenbacchia, authurium, &c., which were received from Mauritius, and some handsome Brazilian orchids and calladiums, very kindly presented by Mr. Merian, the proprietor of Mamelles Estate.

Rubber and cacao plantations.

7. A piece of one acre has been selected and planted with plantains and albizzia in rows so as to start a grove of rubber and cacao in a short time.

Ceara rubber plantations.

8. A very bad plot of ground has been planted with Ceara rubber which are said to produce more latex on poor soils.

Roads.

9. Roads and steps have been made throughout the grounds so as to enable visitors to see all portions of the station, and a large road has been started so as to make a circular promenade round the lawn and pond which are also being made.

Pond.

10. At the foot of a hill all the springs run into small basins which by being connected will form a supply for the pond.

Laboratory.

11. A laboratory has been built up by the Public Works Department and is now provided with some of the essential articles for analysing soils and manures, and for collecting plants and zoological specimens.

Sale of plants.

12. Many plants have been placed in balls of earth or bamboo pots and offered for sale, and many others are now in preparation for the planters of Seychelles and South Africa.

The following is a brief list of the plants which have been already sold:

Parkia Roxburghii.
Nutmegs.
Oranges of different kinds.
Eucalypti of different kinds.
Date palms.
Canna
Albizzia.
Ivy (ficus).
Thomea, coleus, maranta.
Crotons.
Roses.
Begonias.
Cedar (Casuarina).
Cherimolia, Jack fruit tree.
Ormosia, mountain cherry.
Ceara rubber, carob tree.
Calladium.
Papaw, cotton tree.
Seychelles Gayac (Afzelia bijuga).
Capsicum.
Egg fruit plants.
Sterculia (cacao).
Filicium decipiens.
Custard apple, soursop.
Bougainvillea, Pomegranate.
Franciscea, Bauhinia.
Helichrysum.
Pandanus, Tamarind.
Tangerine Oranges.
Verschaffeltia splendida, and all the other Seychelles palms.

R. DUPONT,

21st May, 1902. *Curator of the Botanic Station.*

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 395.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 364.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1903.

LONDON:
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1903.

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The following, among other, Reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902
373	Jamaica	,,
374	Leeward Islands	,,
375	Gold Coast	1901
376	Grenada	,,
377	Northern Nigeria	,,
378	British Guiana	1901–1902
379	Mauritius	1901
380	Basutoland	1901–1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901–1902
383	Bermuda...	1902
384	St. Lucia...	1901
385	St. Vincent	,,
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar	,,
388	Wei-Hai-Wei.....	,,
389	Sierra Leone	,,
390	British Honduras	,,
391	Gambia	,,
392	St. Helena	,,
393	Hong Kong	,,
394	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 395.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1901 *see* No. 364.)

ADMINISTRATOR SWEET-ESCOTT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,

Seychelles,

24th June, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the Blue Book of Seychelles for 1902. The Blue Book itself has been compiled, and copies will be transmitted to you so soon as it is printed.

2. Following the example of last year, I have annexed to my Report copies of Reports by Mr. R. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Station, on his mission last year to Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Java, and Sumatra, on the cocoanut industry, and on the work of the Botanic Station. These Reports are full of interesting information, more so indeed than the usual Blue Book Report, which is apt to be wearisome both to compiler and reader. I shall be grateful, therefore, if, as the means of giving Mr. Dupont's Reports the widest publicity possible, you will be so good as to approve of their being printed as annexures to my Report.

I have, &c.,

E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT,

Administrator.

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REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

1. The total Revenue of Seychelles in 1902 was Rs. 437,465 77c., and, although less by Rs. 48,858 21c. than the Revenue for 1901, was more by Rs. 38,154 12c. than the Revenue for 1900, which was Rs. 36,520 in excess of that collected in any previous year.

Expenditure.

2. The Expenditure, excluding that from Loan Funds, but including that of the four Local Boards of Health, was Rs. 497,479 72c., or Rs. 60,013 95c. more than the Revenue for the year, and exceeded the Expenditure of 1901 by Rs. 95,658 92c. The causes of the decrease in the Revenue and of the increase in the Expenditure will be explained in their proper places.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1898 to 1902.

3. The following table gives the total Revenue and Expenditure of Seychelles for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1898	316,176	276,365
1899	362,791	268,907
1900	399,311	351,919
1901	486,323	401,521
1902	437,465	497,479

Revenue and Expenditure of Local Boards.

4. In addition to the Local Board of Health for the Central District (Town of Victoria), which was created on the 1st January, 1901, Local Boards were established in 1902 for the Island of Praslin, the Island of La Digue, and for South Mahé District (First and Second Divisions). It has been thought more convenient to include the Revenue and Expenditure of

these Boards in the general statements of Revenue and Expenditure, as, by the passing of Ordinance No. 32 of 1902, Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their Expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature.

Details of Revenue, 1901 and 1902.

5. The details of Revenue for the years 1901 and 1902 are given in the following table: —

Heads of Receipts.	1901.	1902.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	263,402 96	207,488 45
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	5,544 44	3,572 39
3. Licenses, &c.	57,403 95	56,837 03
4. Taxes	60,065 98	64,885 43
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	28,554 07	28,578 09
6. Post Office	23,381 84	29,760 52
7. Rents of Government Property	17,349 78	17,291 58
8. Interest	8,325 23	8,715 86
9. Miscellaneous	22,295 73	20,336 42
Total	486,323 98	437,465 77

Revenue of 1902 compared with that of 1901.

6. Of the nine heads of receipts, four show an increase over the receipts for 1901, and in only one, namely "Customs," is there any noteworthy falling off. The difference between the Customs receipts for 1902 and 1901 is Rs. 55,914 51c., and is, therefore, more by Rs. 7,056 30c. than the shortage in the total Revenue for 1902, as compared with the Revenue for 1901. The declared value at the Customs of Imports in 1902 was less by Rs. 266,827 than the declared value of Imports in 1901. The decrease in the Customs Receipts was especially marked in the months of November and December, which are usually the best revenue months of the year, and was principally due to merchants abstaining from taking out of bond spirits and wine in consequence of restrictions imposed by Ordinance No. 28 of 1902 on the sale of intoxicants to children under the age of 14, and the prohibition of the sale of spirits, wine, and beer on Sundays, Good Friday, and Christmas Day. The law was slightly modified by Ordinance No. 1 of 1903, and trade resumed its normal course in February of the present year, but the unexpected shortage in Customs receipts caused the total Revenue for 1902 to fall short of the Estimate for the year by Rs. 33,804 88c. In all other respects the Revenue results of last year may be regarded as satisfactory.

Details of Expenditure, 1900 and 1901.

7. The following table gives the details of the Expenditure in 1901 and 1902:—

Expenditure.

Heads of Service.	1901.		1902.	
	Rs.	cts	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	25	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	14,573	75	16,038	20
3. Administrator and Legislature	20,880	63	24,413	24
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	17,526	93	19,345	06
5. Audit Department	3,760	82	4,437	80
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	11,739	66	28,808	39
7. Legal Department	29,565	88	34,856	67
8. Police Department	29,256	77	37,670	70
9. Prison Department	11,598	29	11,990	59
10. Medical Department	28,966	16	30,986	98
11. Ecclesiastical Department	10,822	93	10,012	72
12. Education Department	19,267	36	23,697	05
13. Printing Department...	4,565	75	8,288	46
14. Post Office Department	9,074	75	8,897	54
15. Transport	847	45	1,761	59
16. Botanic Station	7,878	30	7,249	24
17. Local Board, Central District	18,470	77	31,650	58
18. do. South Mahé	—		3,516	33
19. do. Praslin	—		3,204	32
20. do. La Digue	—		1,650	18
21. Exchange and cost of Remittances... ...	3,486	76	3,702	39
22. Miscellaneous	21,189	11	21,620	31
23. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	46,321	38	44,703	83
24. Public Works Department	15,439	50	14,649	28
25. do. Recurrent	21,222	46	27,689	60
26. do. Extraordinary	40,549	93	61,722	42
Total	401,820	80	497,479	72

Explanations as to Increase of Expenditure in 1902.

8. The excess of Expenditure in 1902 over that of 1901 is due to the following causes and services:—

(1.) The raising of the salaries of certain public officers.

(2.) Part payment, amounting to Rs. 17,011 93c., under Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department for a sea-going steam launch.

(3.) Increase in the police force from 60 to 79 of all ranks, and the creation of the appointment of a sub-inspector.

(4.) Improvements effected in the Education Department by the appointment of additional masters for the Victoria School, and in the Printing Department by the purchase of materials costing Rs. 2,694, and a new printing machine costing Rs. 2,408.

(5.) Improvements in roads in addition to ordinary charges for maintenance. The total amount expended on roads, under "Public Works Recurrent," was Rs. 16,417, or Rs. 2,417 in excess of the amount provided in the Estimates.

(6.) The expenditure of no less than Rs. 61,722 42c. on "Public Works Extraordinary," of which Rs. 42,207 41c. were spent on erecting new public buildings, and Rs. 14,753 94c. on the construction of new roads.

(7.) Creation of Local Boards at Praslin, La Digue, and the Southern District in Mahé, and expenditure in improving those Districts.

(8.) Expenditure in celebrating the Coronation of the King, and a special vote of Rs. 3,000 for the Island of St. Vincent.

Money was freely spent in 1902, but the results can be seen and are permanent. Expenditure has been carefully controlled, and there has been no waste of public money. If the public works successfully carried out had not been undertaken, it is certain that the depression of trade which prevailed in 1902 would have been more keenly felt. As it was, there was no lack of employment during the past year for the working classes.

Changes in Taxation.

9. By Ordinance No. 30 of 1902 the duty on wines in cask was reduced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 9 per hectolitre, and on still wines in bottles from Rs. 4 to Rs. 2 per dozen, and the ad valorem duty on "Articles de Mode" was also reduced from 15 per cent. to 12½ per cent. These reductions were made as the result of negotiations by the Home Government, on behalf of Seychelles, with the French Government in order to secure Seychelles products, and especially vanilla, from a duty 200 per cent. in excess of the duty imposed on French Colonial products entering France. By the arrangement made, Seychelles obtains the benefit of the minimum tariff. The same Ordinance also transferred to the free list manure of all sorts, and, when used in the manufacture of soap, caustic soda, caustic potash, silicate of soda, and silicate of potash. The law was passed on the 23rd October, 1902, but was not brought into operation until the 16th February of the present year.

Assets and Liabilities.

10. On the 31st December, 1902, the Assets of Seychelles exceeded its Liabilities by Rs. 288,323 24c., and, although this sum is less by Rs. 51,438 98c. than the surplus at the end of 1901, the position must be considered as satisfactory, having regard to the many public works, of a permanent nature, carried out since the beginning of 1900, and remembering that in April of that year Seychelles repaid to Mauritius the sum of Rs. 55,000, which represented the balance of a debt dating back to a period earlier than the year 1872, in which year the finances of Seychelles were entirely separated from those of Mauritius.

The following table shows the position of Seychelles as regards its Assets and Liabilities from 1896 to 1902:—

Year	Amount.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	
1896	15,488 01	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
1897	2,017 04	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
1898	67,436 73	" "
1899	126,426 26	" "
1900	236,513 85	" "
1901	339,762 22	" "
1902	288,323 24	" "

Investments.

11. The market value on the 31st December, 1902 of the investments of the Government was £18,742 12*s.* 11*d.*, that is, at 1*s.* 4*d.* the rupee, Rs. 296,139 69c. The amount of stock held represented a sum of £19,886 5*s.* 6*d.* On the 31st December, 1889, the surplus funds invested only amounted to Rs. 22,350.

Public Debt.

12. The Public Debt consisting of the loan from the Imperial Treasury of £20,000 (Rs. 300,000) under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, and Seychelles Ordinance No. 1 of 1900, for the construction of new roads in, and for the survey of the Island of Mahé, on the 31st December last was Rs. 270,367 50c., two annual repayments of principal and interest combined, amounting to £1,[illegible] 10*s.* (Rs. 29,632 50c.) having been made in April, 1901, and April, 1902. The last payment of this annuity is due on the 26th April, 1930.

Road Construction.

In 1900, 1901, and 1902, 15 miles of roads were made at a total cost of Rs. 57,809 87c., and at an average cost per mile of Rs. 3,853 99c. In the total cost are included the ineffective charges, amounting to Rs. 6,792 25c., and including a sum of Rs. 1,300 96c. for return passages of coolies to India. The actual cost of construction in 1900 to 1902 was, therefore, Rs. 51,017 62c., and the average cost per mile thus becomes Rs. 3,401 17c.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

Imports.

13. The declared value in 1902 of Imports, without specie, was Rs. 861,159, being less by Rs. 288,487 than their declared value in 1901. It was also less than the declared value of Imports in any year from 1897 to 1900 inclusive, but exceeded by Rs. 150,800 the declared value of Imports in 1896, in which year the Imports were higher than in any previous year.

Exports.

14. The declared value in 1902 of Exports, without specie, was Rs. 1,094,268, and, although less by Rs. 323,247 than the declared value of Exports in 1901, was greater by Rs. 58,107 than the declared value of Exports in 1900. In comparing the declared value of Exports for any two years or more, it must be remembered that the declared value of vanilla is the dominant factor. Thus, in 1891, 40,929 kilos. of vanilla were exported, but the declared value was only Rs. 373,190. In 1896, 31,227 kilos. were exported, and the declared value was Rs. 936,000. In 1899, 41,835 kilos. were exported, and the declared value was Rs. 1,338,720. In 1901 the exports of vanilla amounted to 71,899 kilos.—the largest quantity ever exported in one year—but the value of the vanilla, although it exceeded by over 30,000 kilos. the quantity exported in 1889, was declared at only Rs. 1,108,792, that is Rs. 229,928 less.

Last year there was another fine crop of vanilla, and 60,862 kilos. were exported, but the total value declared was only Rs. 642,330, a sum which falls short by Rs. 106,480 of the declared value of vanilla exported in 1898, although in actual quantity the export of vanilla in 1902 exceeded the export in 1898 by 35,685 kilos.

These are striking figures, and explain why fluctuations in the Revenue of Seychelles must be anticipated, so long as its principal staple is one the value of which is liable to such considerable variations from year to year.

Comparative Table of Imports and Exports, 1898 to 1902.

15. In the following table are given the total value of Imports and Exports with and without specie, for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1898	889,041	1,009,640	1,278,382	1,381,514
1899	984,666	1,041,890	1,853,362	1,897,662
1900	980,911	1,000,911	1,036,161	1,052,211
1901	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245
1902	861,159	943,819	1,094,268	1,237,405

Comparative Table of Principal Imports, 1901 and 1902.

16. The following table gives a comparative statement of the principal articles imported in 1901 and 1902 and the Countries of origin:—

—	United Kingdom.		India.		Mauritius.		France.		Zanzibar.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coal	106,500	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	22,045	5,647	499	537	—	—	—	—
Cotton Goods	108,222	118,534	28,317	21,874	12,763	1,675	10,795	30,977	605	—
Flour	210	—	20,030	16,419	10,190	6,242	—	1,462	2,086	—
Haberdashery and millinery	19,328	24,082	7,710	5,528	7,880	2,543	24,596	25,732	140	—
Iron goods	36,234	19,332	1,575	2,272	14,056	2,425	8,077	9,563	50	—
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	5,173	6,669	696	738	1,117	101	1,732	1,948	—	—
Leather boots and shoes	7,022	5,494	1,532	405	1,189	209	3,391	2,231	—	—
Provisions	13,419	14,357	1,737	792	4,099	2,030	3,079	5,089	67	220
Rice	—	—	173,328	167,667	50,333	3,500	—	—	8,871	4,765
Soap	915	672	546	883	106	—	1,842	812	9	—
Spirits of all kinds	14,001	9,225	—	670	20,560	20,829	23,274	12,490	—	—
Sugar	—	—	866	282	40,227	35,330	—	—	273	—
Wine of all kinds	—	277	—	—	4,477	570	69,189	47,806	—	—

NOTE.—In 1901, 51,455 kilos. of coffee, valued at Rs. 24,788, were imported, of which 45,641 kilos. came from India, 5,062 kilos. from Aden, and 752 kilos. from Mauritius. Owing to misplacement of figures, it was stated in the Report for 1901 that no coffee was imported from India in that year. In 1902, 21,080 kilos. of coffee were imported from Aden, 16,790 kilos. from India, and 1,047 kilos. from Mauritius, and the total declared value of the coffee imported was Rs. 12,810.

Comparative Table of Imports from Principal Countries, 1898 to 1902.

17. The value of Imports, including specie, during the last five years from those Countries from which Seychelles principally draws its supplies is given in the following table:—

Country.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	136,550	323,406	359,862	400,725	270,970
India	317,123	334,693	316,112	304,748	306,275
Mauritius ...	137,802	123,641	153,363	282,446	142,892
France	131,496	177,619	152,532	192,260	201,160

The falling off in the value of Imports from the United Kingdom is specially noticeable, but is almost entirely due to no coal having been imported in 1902, whereas 7,356 tons, valued at Rs. 106,500, were imported from the United Kingdom in 1901. Cotton goods and haberdashery and millinery exceeded in 1902 by Rs. 15,066 the value of similar goods imported in 1901, whilst the value of iron goods imported from the United Kingdom was less by Rs. 16,902 than it was in 1902. Provisions show an increase of Rs. 938, but spirits show a decrease of Rs. 4,776.

Notwithstanding the decrease in the declared value of many articles imported from India in 1902, as compared with 1901, principally flour, haberdashery and millinery, and rice, India heads the list of Countries from which Seychelles imports are drawn, owing to Rs. 50,000 having been imported by the Government from Bombay in December last, in order to replace in part the heavy shipments from Seychelles of rupees during the year. In 1902 the value of specie exported was Rs. 143,136 80c., against Rs. 65,730 exported in 1901.

The absence in 1901, for four months, of any regular mail service with Europe was the cause of more than the average quantity of goods being imported from Mauritius in that year, whilst the aggregate was swollen by the importation of Rs. 55,000 in specie. In 1902 the specie imported from Mauritius fell to Rs. 20,000, and the value of rice imported, from Rs. 50,333 to Rs. 3,500. Cotton goods, flour, haberdashery and millinery, and iron goods show a decrease of Rs. 32,004. Out of the difference of Rs. 139,554 in the declared value of the Imports from Mauritius in 1901 and 1902, Rs. 113,837 are thus accounted for.

Comparative Table of Principal Exports, 1901 and 1902.

18. The declared value at the Customs of the principal Exports in 1901 and 1902, and the Chief Countries to which they were exported are shown in the following table:—

—	Cocoa.		Cocoanuts.		Guano.		Oil (cocoanut).		Salted fish.		Soap.		Tortoise-shell		Vanilla.	
	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	2,551	1,809	—	—	8,500	16,934	—	—	—	—	—	—	13,106	9,275	512,641	356,616
France	—	1,444	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,975	6,151	560,616	284,994
Mauritius ...	—	—	19,809	11,798	37,933	53,170	95,378	139,890	2,130	1,492	—	40	—	—	34,703	—
India	500	—	2,166	5,319	—	—	24,802	42,835	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zanzibar... ...	—	—	—	2,125	—	—	950	4,528	—	441	23,780	43,466	—	—	—	—
Madagascar ...	—	—	780	2,730	—	—	15,000	37,751	—	—	6,785	2,394	—	—	5	—
Aden	—	—	1,833	1,639	—	—	6,958	8,394	—	—	45	—	1,017	—	—	—
Réunion... ...	—	—	1,689	1,122	280	2,130	2,668	8,344	250	3,824	950	90	—	—	—	—
Germany ...	—	—	—	—	4,750	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	826	410
Australia ...	—	—	—	—	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

In 1902 950 tons of guano, declared at Rs. 9,500, were shipped to Antwerp, and 850 tons of guano, declared at Rs. 8,500, were shipped to Belgium.

Comparative Table of Exports to Principal Countries, 1898 to 1902.

19. The United Kingdom, France, Mauritius, and India still remain the principal Countries to which Seychelles exports its produce, but as will be seen from the following table the Exports to Zanzibar and Madagascar are of some importance:—

Country.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	505,505	907,142	437,756	537,135	396,953
France	290,958	472,314	173,124	563,902	294,094
Mauritius ...	157,094	107,919	177,843	205,266	251,527
India	234,711	271,997	110,121	78,354	98,858
Zanzibar ...	59,861	31,564	37,284	24,990	51,480
Madagascar ...	25,971	304	580	29,225	43,396

Principal Exports to United Kingdom.

20. The United Kingdom regained in 1902 the place which it lost in 1901 as head of the list of Countries receiving Exports from Seychelles, owing to 32,886 kilos. of vanilla, declared at Rs. 356,616, having been sent to England against 27,940 kilos., declared at Rs. 284,994, sent to France. Of the other Exports to the United Kingdom the principal were 1,799 tons of guano, declared at Rs. 16,934; 438 kilos. of tortoise-shell, declared at Rs. 9,275; 1,700 kilos. of calipi, declared at Rs. 3,000; and 3,323 kilos. of cocoa declared at Rs. 1,809.

Principal Exports to France.

21. Vanilla was, as has been seen from the preceding paragraph, the chief Export to France, and the other principal Exports to this Country were 262 kilos. of tortoise-shell, declared at Rs. 6,151; and 2,643 kilos. of cocoa, declared at Rs. 1,444.

Principal Exports to Mauritius.

22. Cocoanut oil heads the list of Exports to Mauritius, the quantity being 6,863 hectolitres, declared at Rs. 139,890. This quantity is less by 190 hectolitres than the quantity exported to Mauritius in 1901, but the declared value is greater by Rs. 44,512 than the declared value of the oil sent in that year. Of the other Exports to Mauritius, the following were the most important:—3,688 tons of guano, declared at Rs. 53,170; 670,318 cocoanuts, declared at Rs. 11,798; wood and timber, declared at Rs. 4,248; 21,313 vacoas bags, declared at Rs. 2,433; and 7,997 kilos. of salt fish, declared at Rs. 1,492. In addition, Rs. 34,075 in specie were sent to Mauritius.

Principal Exports to India.

23. The chief Exports to India were 2,081 hectolitres of cocoanut oil, declared at Rs. 42,835, as compared with 1,053 hectolitres, declared at Rs. 22,802, exported in 1901; 220,876 cocoanuts, declared at Rs. 5,319; and Rs. 46,038 in specie.

Principal Exports to Zanzibar.

24. Zanzibar is the chief market for soap manufactured in Seychelles, and the quantity exported there last year was 163,241 kilos., declared at Rs. 43,466 against 85,351 kilos., declared at Rs. 23,780, in 1901. The only other two Exports of importance were 191 hectolitres of cocoanut oil, declared at Rs. 4,528, and 70,150 cocoanuts, declared at Rs. 2,125.

Principal Exports to Madagascar.

25. It is satisfactory to note the increase in the Exports to Madagascar, and every encouragement should be given to trade with this Island which is Seychelles' nearest market. In 1902, 1,411 hectolitres of oil, of the declared value of Rs. 37,751, were exported to Madagascar, against only 673 hectolitres, of the declared value of Rs. 15,000, in 1901, and there were also exported 52,524 cocoanuts, declared at Rs. 2,730, and 9,835 kilos. of soap declared at Rs. 2,394. The export of soap was, however, less by 17,395 kilos. than it was in 1901.

Fluctuations in Values Declared at the Customs.

26. It has been seen from paragraph 14 of this Report how variable is the declared value at the Customs of vanilla, this value being, as a general rule, lower than its selling value in England or France. A reference to the following table will also show that the produce of the cocoanut palm, although not liable to such great fluctuations in value as vanilla, varies in value from year to year, with the result that the declared values at the Customs of the Exports of these Islands cannot be taken as a reliable indication of their productiveness in any given year:—

Year.	Cocoanuts.		Cocoanut oil.		Soap.		Total value of cocoanuts, cocoanut oil and soap exported.
	No. of nuts.	Rs.	Hectolitres.	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	Rs.
1893	1,345,800	26,736	13,576	340,270	15,025	4,101	371,107
1894	1,525,532	30,510	13,939	338,784	12,398	3,480	372,774
1895	1,632,860	32,647	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	409,279
1896	1,293,136	26,237	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	486,134
1897	1,492,475	29,849	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	414,627
1898	1,695,236	34,094	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	327,447
1899	983,418	19,667	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	442,286
1900	1,083,302	27,524	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	331,911
1901	1,071,732	26,228	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	205,321
1902	1,117,960	24,815	11,326	242,343	173,476	45,990	313,148

Exports and Declared Value of Vanilla, 1893 to 1902.

27. The following table, which may be useful for purposes of reference, gives the quantity, in kilos., and the declared value, of vanilla exported during each of the last ten years, and shows at a glance the variations in crop and value to which this product is exposed.

Exports of Vanilla 1893 *to* 1902.

Year.	Quantity in Kilos.	Declared Value.
		Rs.
1893	28,869	346,428
1894	24,444	293,328
1895	4,553	60,344
1896	31,227	936,000
1897	30,691	920,730
1898	25,177	748,810
1899	41,835	1,338,720
1900	17,569	580,877
1901	71,899	1,108,792
1902	60,862	642,330

Other Exports.

28. Of the remaining Exports those included in the following table are the most important, and the exports of cocoa, guano, tortoise-shell, and salted fish admit of considerable development. Coffee might be exported in large quantities if prices for Liberian coffee ruled higher, whilst, with a more abundant labour market, the export of cloves would again become important.

Year.	Cocoa.		Coffee.		Guano.		Tortoise-shell.		Salt Fish.*	
	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Tons.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.
1893	7,003	5,602	21	36	—	—	2,402	76,864	—	—
1894	1,650	1,650	—	—	—	—	1,736	52,080	—	—
1895	12,043	9,921	201	241	390	9,650	1,802	74,705	—	—
1896	6,794	4,905	158	158	1,133	22,660	1,701	65,760	—	—
1897	5,714	4,566	627	597	1,105	22,100	1,522	59,341	—	—
1898	8,452	6,762	639	639	491	22,287	1,281	40,992	368	111
1899	7,891	5,049	4,481	2,688	1,940	19,400	973	30,859	19,031	2,286
1900	7,287	6,365	2,565	1,464	3,277	42,159	1,440	35,933	7,139	4,243
1901	5,163	3,051	548	221	5,598	54,463	835	17,099	7,224	2,380
1902	5,966	3,254	1,710	736	7,500	90,234	700	15,426	25,115	5,758

* Reliable figures for years previous to 1898 are not available.

(B.) MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

(D.) GRANTS OF LAND.

MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

29. For information on the subject of Manufactures and Fisheries reference should be made to the Blue Book Reports for 1899, 1900, and 1901.*

There was no special feature of interest in 1902 to which attention need be called, and no important progress to record. Owing to want of local support, the ice factory, established in 1900, was closed. A daily supply of ice to the hospital, in consideration of the Government annual grant of Rs. 1,000, had proved a great boon, and it is hoped that another factory, less expensive to maintain, may be started.

From the table given in paragraph 28 it would appear that the Fishing Ordinance No. 20 of 1901 has already proved beneficial, as the quantity of salt fish exported last year was 25,115 kilos., against 7,224 kilos. in 1901, and 7,139 kilos. in 1900. But the fishing industry is capable of far greater development, and there seems no sufficient reason why Seychelles should not be able to send to Mauritius, at profitable rates, a constant supply of salted and pickled fish. In 1901, Mauritius imported 1,290,637 kilos. of salted fish, valued at Rs. 259,431, and 269,392 kilos. of pickled fish, valued at Rs. 53,198. Of this large quantity only 3,872 kilos. of salted fish and 650 kilos. of pickled fish came from Seychelles, notwithstanding the abundance of fish in Seychelles waters and the comparative proximity to Mauritius of the Seychelles Islands. It is true that the Mauritius Government declines to acknowledge as wholesome food certain kinds of fish which are freely eaten in Seychelles, but which are said to be poisonous when caught in Mauritius waters, but, even after eliminating these kinds, there remain many others of unexceptionable quality, the exportation of which to Mauritius might be greatly and profitably increased.

AGRICULTURE.

30. I have annexed to this Report, as I did to the Report for 1901, a Report by the Curator of the Botanic Station on the botanical work of last year. Mr. Dupont, the Curator, has also given an account of his late mission to Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, including the Federated Malay States, Sumatra, and Java, and has annexed a comprehensive Report on the cocoanut industry which planters in Seychelles would do well

* *See* Colonial Reports—Annual, Nos. 301, 333 and 364.

to take to heart. Mr. Dupont brought back to Seychelles an admirable selection of valuable plants of all kinds, many of which have already been sold, whilst others are being prepared for distribution. The Government has done and is doing its utmost to make easy the way for the establishment of other industries than those which have hitherto existed, and it is to be hoped that the present opportunity will not be allowed to pass by. To encourage a wholesome and stimulating rivalry in perfecting existing industries and establishing new ones, a second Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition on the lines of that held in September, 1901, has been arranged for October of this year.

Crown Lands.

31. No grants of Crown land were made in 1902, and the only important lease which fell in was that of the Island of Curieuse, the lessees being unable to pay the second year's rent. The Island was again put up to lease by tender, and it is hoped that the new lessees will be able to develop its undoubted resources.

As has been pointed out in previous Reports, the Crown possesses comparatively little land in Mahé, and, with the exception of some 300 acres of land on the hills, which it is now proposed to reserve for experimental and re-afforestation purposes, the land has been leased.

The estimated area of the 89 islands and islets included in the Seychelles Government is given as 95,000 acres, of which 40,000 are estimated to be cultivated, and 55,000 to be uncultivated. Of the estimated total acreage the number of acres granted may be placed at 55,000, 40,000 remaining ungranted. But of these 40,000 acres a large proportion is made up of the Aldabra and Cosmoledo Groups of Islands, which do not admit of any high degree of cultivation, the remainder consisting of the Amirantes Islands, Curieuse, and Félicité, all of which are now under lease.

The distribution of the 89 islands which form part of Seychelles is as follows:—45 included in what is known as the Seychelles Archipelago; 21 in the Amirantes Archipelago, divided into 4 in the African Group, 8 in St. Joseph Group, and 9 in Poivre Islands Group; 3 in the Alphonse Group; 3 in the Providence Group; 12 in the Cosmoledo Group; and 5 in the Aldabra Group.

(E.) Shipping.

Comparative Tables of Shipping, 1901, 1902.

32. The following four tables show the number, tonnage, and nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the last two years:—

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1901 ...	19	2,984	3	236	—	—	3	1,307	25	4,527
1902 ...	24	5,363	3	135	1	57	4	2,105	32	7,660

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1901 ...	19	2,565	3	115	—	—	3	1,307	25	3,987
1902 ...	24	5,890	2	90	1	57	4	2,105	31	8,142

(3.) *Steamers Entered.*

Year.	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese.		Spanish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1901 ...	36	75,850	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	11	22,927	7	50,511	—	—	1	1,376	1	638	1	1,860	64	164,975
1902 ...	13	35,886	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	51,467	14	21,312	1	3,400	—	—	—	—	—	—	55	112,065

(4.) *Steamers Cleared.*

Year.	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese.		Spanish.		Total Vessels.	TotalTonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1901 ...	36	75.850	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	11	22,927	7	50,511	—	—	1	1,376	1	638	1	1,860	64	164,975
1902 ...	12	33,941	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	51,467	14	21,312	1	3,400	—	—	—	—	—	—	54	110,120

33. The following tables, which are numbered (5) and (6) for facility of reference, give information respecting the men-of-war of all nations which have visited Seychelles during the last five years, and a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the same period:—

(5.) *Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles from* 1898–1902.

Year.	British.			American.			Austrian.			Dutch.			French.			German.			Italian.			Portuguese.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1898	5	10,890	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2,223	16	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14,763
1899	5	9,871	30	—	—	—	1	2,440	10	1	7,000	12	1	2,000	4	4	14,589	78	1	1,399	4	1	2,993	2	40,292
1900	10	27,631	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	8	1	3,149	14	1	1,120	13	1	400	4	1	1,800	12	42,000
1901	4	13,124	12	3	5,283	48	2	3,880	27	—	—	—	1	3,149	28	7	50,511	92	—	—	—	1	638	5	76,585
1902	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4,117	32	—	—	—	1	3,400	14	—	—	—	7,517
Totals	24	61,516	169	3	5,283	48	3	6,320	37	2	14,900	20	8	14,638	94	13	67,870	183	3	5,199	22	3	5,431	19	181,157

(6.) *Comparative Statement of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards from* 1898–1902.

Year.	—	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian		Portuguese		Spanish.		Totals.		Total Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
1898	Inwards	49	60,530	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	65,283	136,306
	Outwards	54	64,766	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3,203	1	1,650	—	—	1	1,404	—	—	—	—	64	71,023	
1899	Inwards	46	62,923	—	—	1	2,400	1	7,000	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	4	1,254	1	2,993	—	—	64	96,263	192,178
	Outwards	45	62,839	—	—	1	2,400	1	7,000	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	3	992	1	2,993	—	—	62	95,915	
1900	Inwards	86	140,222	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	4	2,424	1	1,800	—	—	100	158,570	317,391
	Outwards	86	140,211	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,354	1	400	5	2,686	1	1,800	—	—	101	158,821	
1901	Inwards	55	78,834	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,963	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	89	169,502	338,464
	Outwards	55	78,415	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	89	168,962	
1902	Inwards	37	41,249	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	51,592	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	87	119,715	237,977
	Outwards	36	39,831	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	51,557	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	85	118,262	
	Totals ...	549	769,820	6	10,566	6	12,560	8	35,500	123	166,962	60	183,690	6	10,398	33	18,336	6	10,862	2	3,720	799	1,222,316	1,222,316

Decrease in 1902 of Total Tonnage of Shipping.

34. From Statement (6) it will be seen that last year the total tonnage of shipping, inwards and outwards, was less by 100,487 tons than it was in 1901, and less by 79,414 tons than it was in 1900, but greater by 45,799 tons than it was in 1899. It will also be seen that British shipping no longer heads the list, being ousted by French shipping, which exceeded by 22,069 tons the total tonnage of British shipping.

A reference to tables (3), (4), and (5) supplies the explanation. In 1902 only 13 British steamers called at Mahé, as against 27 French steamers. Of these steamers, 24 belonged to the Messageries Maritimes Company, which now call at Seychelles on the outward and homeward voyages between Marseilles and Mauritius, receiving 2,000 francs for each call. These steamers carry Seychelles mails and cargo, and, in 1902, performed the service with great punctuality.

Table (5) shows that no British man-of-war called at Seychelles in 1902, and that only two men-of-war of Foreign Powers paid the Colony a visit. In 1901, 18 men-of-war, of which 4 were British, visited Seychelles; in 1900, 15 called, 10 being British; and in 1899 14 called, 5 being British.

Steam Launch "Alexandra."

35. The arrival from Bombay in December last of the sea-going steam launch "Alexandra," which was built for this Government by the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, is an event worthy of being recorded in this Report, for a long-felt want has at last been supplied. Fortnightly communication with the islands in the Praslin District, which are from 25 to 35 miles distant from Mahé, is now maintained, to the convenience of people generally, and to the advantage of the Government. On a recent occasion I was able to complete in less than four days a tour of inspection among the Islands, during which the "Alexandra" steamed over 130 miles, whereas in a sailing boat the tour would probably have occupied more than a week, and nearly the whole time would have been spent at sea. When it is remembered that the Government cutter "Wave," which is only 7½ tons, sailed last year no less than 3,222 miles, and that the distance travelled by Government boats despatched from the Port Office, Victoria, without including Government boats at out-stations, was 1,901 miles, the necessity of Government Officers not being always dependent on sails and oars can be understood. It is hoped that during the current year the construction of an 80-ton schooner will be begun. Such a vessel is sorely needed for visiting the out-lying islands belonging to the Government, some of which are from 600 to 700 miles from Mahé.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Principal Ordinances described.

36. During the year 1902, 17 meetings of the Legislative Council were held, and 35 Ordinances passed. Of these Ordinances the following are the most important:—

No. 1—"The Labour Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 1902, (No. 1)," which repeals, so far as Seychelles is concerned, Chapter VII., entitled "Contracts of Service," of Mauritius Labour Ordinance No. 12 of 1878, and re-enacts the provision of this chapter dealing with contracts of service between employers or masters and servants, with such alterations as local circumstances required.

No. 4.—"The Holidays Ordinance, 1902," under which "Public Holidays" and "Estate Holidays" are defined, and "Victoria Day" is added to the list of Public Holidays.

No. 6.—"The Out-lying Islands Labour Ordinance, 1902," which regulates the employment of labour in certain out-lying islands of the Seychelles Archipelago; provides for the appointment of a Visiting Magistrate and defines his jurisdiction and the procedure of his court; regulates contracts of service between masters and servants, and specifies the rations, and the hospital, hut, and prison accommodation which must be provided; lays down the cases in which arrest and imprisonment may be resorted to; deals clearly with the long vexed question of shops on islands, limiting the credit system, and absolutely prohibiting the sale of any spirits; and lastly, imposes on masters employing servants in any island the obligation of communicating from Mahé with such island at least every six months, and of providing for the Visiting Magistrate the best possible accommodation on board the ship or coaster used in maintaining communication.

No. 10, which provides for the survey and detention, under certain circumstances, of unseaworthy foreign ships.

No. 11, which consolidates and amends the laws regulating pensions, compensations, and allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Civil Service in the Seychelles Islands.

No. 13, which consolidates and amends the law relating to the construction, repair and alteration of buildings; defines the powers of Local Boards under the Ordinance and regulates appeals to the Central Board (the Administrator in Executive Council); and specifies the procedure to be taken in all cases arising out of the enforcement of the law.

No. 14, which amends and consolidates the laws relating to the repression and detection of larcenies of vanilla and other produce; limits and regulates the issue of permits for the

removal of produce from one place to another, providing heavy penalties in the case of persons guilty of removing produce without a permit, giving false permits, found in possession of produce without permit, and receiving produce which is not accompanied by a permit.

The law also defines the terms "Buyer of vanilla" and "Preparer of vanilla"; fixes the license duties to be paid by such persons; renders obligatory the keeping of registers by buyers and receivers of produce; and gives all necessary powers for enforcing its provisions.

No. 17, which gives the Administrator in Executive Council power to authorise the construction of electric or telephonic lines subject to such conditions and restrictions as he may think fit to impose.

No. 18, which, subject to certain conditions, reduces from ten to five days the period of quarantine for plague.

No. 19, which consolidates all previous enactments respecting the Savings Bank; removes the limit formerly placed on the maximum amount of deposits; and provides for different matters in connection with the management of the Bank, the rate of interest on deposits, and the investment of Savings Bank funds.

No. 20 of 1902, which sanctions the establishment of fire brigades, and gives the brigade and police certain necessary powers on the outbreak of fires.

No. 21, which provides for the naturalization by the Administrator in Executive Council of aliens, letters of naturalization having hitherto been grantable only by the Governor of Mauritius in Executive Council in Mauritius.

No. 23, which makes provision for the more effectual prevention in Seychelles of cruelty to birds and animals.

No. 25, which consolidates all the laws concerning the construction, alteration, maintenance, and superintendence of public roads; gives a complete list of existing public roads; and traces the procedure which must be followed when land has to be taken for the construction of roads and compensation is claimed.

No. 28, which imposed restrictions on the sale and consumption of intoxicating liquors, and especially in regard to their sale to children. This Ordinance has since been repealed, and its provisions, with slight modifications, included in a consolidating Licenses Ordinance.

No. 30, which reduces the duty on wine in casks, from Rs. 10 to Rs. 9 per hectolitre, and on wine in bottles from Rs. 4 to

Rs. 2 per dozen, and the ad valorem duty on "Articles de Mode" from 15 per cent. to 12½ per cent., and adds to the free list caustic soda and potash, when used in the manufacture of soap. The reason for passing this Ordinance is given in paragraph 9 of this Report.

No. 31, which repeals and re-enacts, with some slight alterations suggested by the Board of Trade, Ordinance No. 18 of 1901, authorizing and regulating inquiries into shipping casualties and the conduct of ships' officers.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Progress of Education in 1902.

37. For general information on the subject of Education in Seychelles, I must refer to my remarks in the Reports for 1900 and 1901, to which there is not much that need be added. Generally speaking, the year 1902 was one of steady progress in the different Grant-in-Aid Schools, and especially in the Victoria School. Founded in 1891, as a free school under the name of "Government Undenominational School," with 61 pupils on the roll, and with a Staff consisting of a head master, an assistant master, and four monitors, it became at the end of 1900 the "Victoria School," with 113 pupils on the roll. In 1901 its organisation was altered, and the school was divided into paying and non-paying branches. In the latter branch pupils receive an education somewhat similar to that given in Grant-in-Aid Schools, and in the former the classes are so arranged that a course of instruction is given leading up to the highest class in which pupils can be prepared for the Cambridge Senior Local Examination. An Infant School, as a feeder to the Victoria School, was founded in May, 1901, and is proving a success. At the present time there are 132 pupils, of whom 55 pay fees, on the roll of the Victoria School and Infant School. The Staff now consists of a head master, four assistant masters, two monitors, and a mistress for the Infant School. Both schools have been placed in well-arranged and well-equipped buildings, and a laboratory and technical school room have been supplied.

A promising feature in the work of Grant-in-Aid Schools in 1902 was the progress made in the English language, and St. Matthew's Church of England School in Praslin obtained special commendation for improvement since the examination of 1901. The recent increase in the salaries of teachers in Grant-in-Aid Schools, will, it is hoped, lead to more English-speaking teachers being employed, and more thorough work done.

First Annual Exhibition of School Work.

38. It is pleasant to be able to record the success which attended the first Annual Exhibition of School work, open to the pupils of all Grant-in-Aid and Private Schools, and to those of the Victoria School. The Exhibition was held on the 24th December in the new public offices recently erected in the grounds of Government House. The exhibits numbered 315, and 32 prizes were awarded. The Exhibition was opened by the Administrator, and the room was crowded with exhibitors and spectators, who took a keen interest in the proceedings. The next Exhibition will be held in the first week of December of the current year.

School Statistics, 1898 to 1902.

39. In the following table statistics for the last five years are given respecting the Grant-in-Aid Schools and the Victoria School:—

—	Roman Catholic.*					Church of England.					Victoria School and Infant School.†				
	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
No. of schools	21	21	21	23	22	6	6	6	6	4	1	1	1	2	2
No. of pupils on roll	1,967	2,129	2,247	2,377	2,435	376	374	348	343	267	84	106	113	106	123
No. of pupils in average attendance.	1,488	1,619	1,717	1,690	1,458	241	259	241	227	183	62	76	79	82	101
x Grant earned	Rs. 8,371	Rs. 8,450	Rs. 8,451	Rs. 9,573	Rs. 9,128	Rs. 1,628	Rs. 1,549	Rs. 1,548	Rs. 1,702	Rs. 1,211	†NOTE.—The cost of these schools is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff consists of a head master, two assistant masters, four pupil teachers, and schoolmistress for the infant school.				

* These schools include the St. Louis College and Convent paying schools.

x The annual provision for grants to schools was increased in 1898 from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000, and in 1901 from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000.

It will be seen from the above statement that in 1898, 1899, and 1900 practically the whole of the grant of Rs. 10,000 was paid to the Roman Catholic and Church of England Schools, but that the grants earned and paid in 1901 fell short of the increased amount of Rs. 12,000, by Rs. 725, and in 1902 by Rs. 1,661. As the salaries payable to teachers have recently been increased, the whole of the grant will probably be required for the current year.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

40. The Victoria Hospital continues to be the useful institution it has been in the past, and is appreciated by rich and poor alike. The appointment of an additional assistant medical officer, who, when not employed in visiting the out-lying islands, is stationed in Victoria, has increased the usefulness of the hospital by rendering possible certain operations which could not be attempted when the Chief Medical Officer was single-handed. The improvement in the road system of Mahé, by which communication with Victoria has been facilitated, renders it hardly necessary to build a hospital in the southern district of the Island, but it would be a boon to people living in the Praslin District if a small cottage hospital could be established at Baie St. Anne, Praslin, the head-quarters of the assistant medical officer and Justice of the Peace of the District.

Victoria Hospital Statistics, 1898 to 1902.

41. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital from 1898 to 1902 are given in the following table:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1898 ...	126	40	32	13	19	230
1899 ...	190	54	12	8	9	273
1900 ...	112	58	23	12	14	219
1901 ...	147	53	21	17	9	247
1902 ...	176	43	23	14	8	264

Out-Patient Department.

42. 2,340 persons, of whom 438 were males and 1,902 were females received free out-patient treatment during the year. In the Praslin District the number of persons attending the

dispensaries at Grand Anse and Baie St. Anne, Praslin, was 320, of whom 85 were males and 235 females. At Anse Royale, in the South of Mahé, 153 persons availed themselves of the privilege of free treatment at the dispensary which had opened early in the year. Another dispensary has since been opened once a week at Anse Boileau on the West of Mahé, and is a great boon to the people in the southern district living on the west, and also to those in the Port Glaud District in the north-west of Mahé.

Principal Diseases.

43. Syphilis, rheumatism, dysentery, and diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems are, as hitherto, the principal diseases to be fought. A few cases of beri-beri occurred during the year, but the cause of this disease has not been, so far, accurately diagnosed in Seychelles. The Chief Medical Officer stated that all the cases which were brought to him came from houses built on the ground, and that the disease was more common in the wet than in the dry season. He adds that a change of residence has usually been the starting point of convalescence. Generally speaking, the year 1902 must be regarded as a healthy one, the death rate, notwithstanding the high rate of infant mortality, to which reference will be made later on, being only 16·49 per 1,000, or 2·58 per 1,000 below the average of the last five years.

Leper Asylum and Pauper Camp.

44. On the 31st December there were eight lepers in the Asylum at Round Island, near Praslin, but no paupers in the Pauper Camp. On the 31st December, 1901, there were 7 lepers and 3 paupers on the Island.

In his annual Report for 1902, the Assistant Medical Officer for the Praslin District writes that "The Leper House and Pauper Camp have both been efficiently conducted by the overseer, and the inmates have been contented and comfortable, as far as can be secured in their circumstances."

Lunatic Asylum.

45. Lunatic patients from Seychelles are still sent to the Asylum at Beau Bassin in Mauritius for care and treatment, and the number there on the 31st December last was 18. The difficulty of finding a suitable site for an Asylum, the Government possessing no unoccupied land of its own in or near the town, prevented, in 1902, steps being taken, as had been intended, for the erection of the necessary buildings. The question of placing the Asylum at Anse Royale, where a good building site can be acquired, is now under consideration.

VACCINATION.

46. In reporting on the results of vaccination in last year, the Chief Medical Officer writes: "At the commencement of the year we had ice, and the lymph kept fairly well. In July, however, the supply of ice stopped, and the results fell off. Now, however, with the pulp lymph and Renner's, the results are better again." The results of the vaccinations carried out at the Victoria Hospital were as follows:—

Successful—1st time	229
„ 2nd „	67
„ 3rd „	12
Unsuccessful	23
Total	331

At Anse Royale better results were reported by the Assistant Medical Officer, namely:—

Successful—1st time	102
„ 2nd „	33
„ 3rd or more times	29
Unsuccessful	1
Total	165

The Assistant Medical Officer at Praslin gives no details, but writes: "Vaccination in the latter half of the year has been more successful, apparently through the use of better vaccine lymph. In the first half of the year it was only after the third, fourth, or fifth time that a success was recorded, and sometimes not even then." This statement confirms that of the Chief Medical Officer.

It is certainly unfortunate that the ice factory, which, by a daily supply of ice to the Victoria Hospital, enabled the vaccine lymph received every month to be preserved in good condition, should have been closed early in the year owing to the want of local support, the Government and the comparatively few English people in Victoria being the only regular subscribers, and it is to be hoped that a project now on foot for starting another ice factory may prove successful. The only disease to be really feared in Seychelles is small-pox, of which there was a severe epidemic in 1884, and unless the Government can rely on having at its command, at all times, an effective supply of lymph, it is impossible to place the Colony in a position to meet, with comparative equanimity, the outbreak of this disease.

Savings Bank.

47. The Government Savings Bank consists of the Central Bank in Victoria, opened in 1894; a branch Bank at Baie St. Anne, Praslin, opened in 1901; and branch Banks at La Digue and at Anse Royale, both of which were opened in 1902.

Statistics, 1898 to 1902.

48. The following table gives the Savings Bank statistics for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts open on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs.
1898 ...	191	40	16	44,417.27
1899 ...	214	47	24	70,605.18
1900 ...	221	35	28	61,492.04
1901 ...	243	52	30	58,761.19
1902 ...	279	44	8	52,663.92

Investments.

49. The amount invested on behalf of the Savings Bank is the same as in 1900, when the funds were first invested, viz.:—

	Rs.	c.
In Victoria 3 per cent. Stock	40,636	75
In South Australia 3 per cent. Stock...	29,919	37
Total	70,556	12

or Rs. 17,892 20c. in excess of the balance due to depositors on the 31st December, 1902. The interest received on Savings Bank investments in 1902 was Rs. 2,090 82c., and the amount paid by the Government to depositors as interest was Rs. 932 5c. As the transactions of the Savings Bank are carried out by the regular Treasury Staff, the additional revenue derived from the Bank last year was Rs. 1,158 77c.

Opening for a Bank.

50. Attention is called in the Blue Book Reports for 1899, 1900, and 1901 to the need of a Bank in Seychelles. I confirm the remarks which I made on the subject in those three Reports,

and, seeing that the ordinary rate of interest on loans is 12 per cent. per annum, to which a charge of 5 per cent. for commission must be added, it is clear how greatly agriculturists would appreciate a Bank which might be able, on good security, to make advances at reasonable rates of interest.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force.

51. The strength of the Police Force was raised in 1902 from 60 to 79 of all ranks, and includes 1 inspector, 1 sub-inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 3 sergeants, 6 corporals, 20 first-class, 14 second-class, and 28 third-class constables, and 5 boatmen constables. In addition to the Central Police Station in Victoria, there are 12 out-post stations, and police constables are also stationed at the localities assigned to the Ashanti and the Uganda Political Prisoners.

Of the out-stations the most important is Anse Royale, which is under the charge of the sub-inspector, who has with him a sergeant and six constables, and who is responsible, subject to the directions of the inspector, for the policing of the South District of Mahé.

The object of increasing the Police Force was to strengthen the detachments at out-stations; to enable these stations to be kept open by night as well as by day; to render it possible to place in charge of them competent men; and to secure better patrolling of the country districts. These objects have, in the main, been secured, and, having regard to the material available, the Police Force is now in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Judicial Statistics, 1898 to 1902.

52. Judging from the following table, and bearing in mind that nearly all the criminal informations were those laid by the Police, it may, I think, be claimed that, with the increase in its numbers, the Force has become more efficient:—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Court Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1898 ...	557	532	758	628	133	64	154
1899 ...	577	563	764	671	133	61	94
1900 ...	870	860	1,096	931	183	85	80
1901 ...	912	899	1,147	959	187	72	69
1902 ...	1,098	1,083	1,346	1,097	235	100	73

The figures for 1900 and 1901 include cases heard by the Justice of the Peace for the Praslin District, and those for 1902 include also cases heard by the Justice of the Peace for the South Mahé District, and by the Visiting Magistrate for the out-lying islands. I regret that I must once again call attention to the vice of drunkenness in Seychelles. In 1900 the number of cases prosecuted by the police for this offence, which generally resulted in disturbance, was 200. In 1901 the numbers rose to 248, and last year the numbers were 346. What is possible by legislation the Government has done to grapple with a great evil, but the real antidotes to the disease are example and education.

Prison.

53. Other public services of a pressing nature, such as the construction of new roads and the erection of new public buildings, have rendered it impossible to carry out many alterations in the Prison, but a much needed and very suitable Prison Infirmary has been provided, and other improvements are in contemplation this year.

Prison Statistics, 1898 to 1902.

54. It will be seen from the following table that, although the number of persons committed to prison was higher in 1902 than in any of the previous four years, the daily average of prisoners was the same as it was last year:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1898...	279	56
1899...	321	50
1900...	315	52
1901...	276	40
1902...	384	40

Of the 384 persons committed to prison in 1902, 316 were males and 68 were females, being 61 males and 47 females more than the numbers committed to prison in 1901. 105 males and 9 females were committed to prison for purposes of penal imprisonment, the remainder undergoing imprisonment in lieu of payment of fines and costs. Of the daily average of prisoners, 37 were males and 3 were females.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population at Last Census and at End of 1902.

55. According to the Census of the 31st May, 1901, a condensed account of which is given in the Blue Book Report for that year, the population of Seychelles consisted of 19,237 persons, of whom 9,805 were males and 9,432 were females. On the 31st December last it was estimated that the population had increased by 525 since the Census, and that the total population then was 19,772, of whom 10,162 were estimated to be males and 9,610 to be females. The increase in the population in 1902 was 429, and was greater by 97 than the increase in 1901.

Birth-rate.

56. The birth-rate in 1902 was 35·72 per 1,000, against 32·61 per 1,000 in 1901, and 30·45 per 1,000 in 1900.

Death-rate.

57. The death-rate was 16·49 per 1,000, against 18·77 per 1,000 in 1901, and 18·28 per 1,000 in 1900, and was lower by ·72 than the average death-rate of the previous five years. Last year's death-rate was less by ·57 per 1,000 than that of London, and only ·44 per 1,000 more than that of Brighton in 1901. Of the 319 persons who died in 1902, 122 died before reaching the age of 5 (75 of whom were under 1 year), 172 between 5 and 70, and 25 under 70. The number of still-births last year was 53, against 52 in 1901, and 37 in 1900. The wastage of life, by the unnecessarily high rate of infant mortality, to which reference was made in the three last annual Reports, is deplorable, and the more so as being in most cases preventable. The Assistant Medical Officer of the South Mahé District attributes the comparatively numerous cases of still-births in his district to the fact that the parents are the subjects of specific diseases, and the high rate of infant mortality to ignorance on the part of mothers of the most elementary principles of infant feeding. He states that mothers, in the great majority of cases, feed their children by hand, often a few days after birth, thus producing diseases of the alimentary and digestive tracts. He adds, that it is almost impossible to make mothers understand that an infant has not the same digestive organs as an adult.

Climate.

58. The following table gives the rainfall and the maxima and minima shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall.	Maximum shade Temperature.	Minimum shade Temperature.
1898	97·63	82·9	77·4
1899	88·42	87·4	70·0
1900	110·75	88·7	74·1
1901	102·26	88·5	68·4
1902	87·81	88·0	68·0

The mean temperature for the year was 79·125°, being slightly higher than the temperature for the five years 1898 to 1902, which was 79·075°.

January was the wettest month, with a rainfall of 15·44 inches, and June was the driest, with only 0·76 inch of rain. Rain fell on 147 days in 1902, on 162 days in 1901, and on 174 days in 1900.

Wind.

59. The prevailing directions of the wind are S. and S.E., and N. and N.W. The average force of the wind during each month of 1901 and 1902 is given in the following table:—

Month.	Miles per hour, 1901.	Miles per hour, 1902.
January	5·9	7·3
February	6·2	6·2
March	5·1	4·6
April	4·3	4·7
May	5·8	8·9
June	8·9	10·6
July	9·5	10·7
August...	14·2	11·9
September	11·7	12·0
October	7·5	7·1
November	6·3	4·5
December	5·6	8·2

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Post Office Statistics, 1898 to 1902.

60. The following table shows further expansion in the Postal Department, although there was a slight falling off in the Money Order business done:—

Year	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
External—					
Letters received	22,530	28,544	57,831	65,210	68,028
Letters sent	33,000	38,040	39,879	48,649	53,768
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., received.	18,930	47,540	59,379	61,167	86,684
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., sent.	575	6,810	2,750	9,576	7,404
Parcels received	333	259	393	390	1,119
Parcels sent	304	392	422	1,369	856
Totals	75,672	121,585	160,654	186,361	219,451
Internal—					
Letters and newspapers received and sent.	—	—	—	13,997	43,463
External—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	44,959	62,673	95,295	64,302	58,587
Money Orders paid ...	14,194	22,325	16,315	22,107	19,609
Totals	59,153	84,998	111,610	86,409	78,196
Internal—					
Money Orders issued and paid.	—	—	—	—	1,258

Increase in Post Office Revenue.

61. This expansion is reflected by the increase in the Revenue derived from the Department, the receipts being for 1900, Rs. 15,043 85c., for 1901, Rs. 23,381 84c., and for 1902, Rs. 29,760 52c. The increase in Revenue is partly due, no doubt, to the growing demand by stamp collectors for Seychelles stamps, but also to the greater number of letters, newspapers, parcels, &c., despatched to and received from abroad, and to the establishment of an internal post in the Seychelles Islands.

Internal Post.

It will be seen that the number of letters and newspapers sent to and received from places in Seychelles increased from 13,997 in 1901 to 43,463 in 1902. The cost of internal post in 1902 was Rs. 2,179, and the receipts were Rs. 1,752 84c., leaving a deficit of Rs. 426 16c. on the transactions on its account last year. But these figures are encouraging, seeing that the deficit in 1901 on the working of the internal post was Rs. 901 10c.

Parcel Post.

62. On examining the Post Office Blue Book returns for 1902, I notice that the number of parcels despatched to the United Kingdom shows a decrease of 881, as compared with the number sent in 1901, whilst the parcels sent to other places have increased by 368. The Postmaster states that this falling off is, no doubt, due to the heavy transit rates of the French service. For example, a parcel sent to the United Kingdom, and conveyed from Seychelles to Marseilles and thence through France to destination, costs Rs. 3 30c., whereas a parcel of similar weight and dimensions can be sent to France for R. 1 80c.

Decrease in Money Order Business.

63. The decrease in the amount of Money Orders issued is probably due to the commission on those payable in India having been raised on the 21st August, 1902, from 3 per cent. to 4 per cent. as a check against the remittance by local traders of large amounts to India.

Post Office Improvements in 1902.

64. Among other improvements in the Post Office during the year were the following:—

(1.) The opening of a branch Post Office at Anse Royale under the charge of the Justice of the Peace.

(2.) The extension of the internal postal service to the Island of Silhouette, and to most of the other islands of the Archipelago.

(3.) The institution of a local Money Order service.

(4.) The adoption of the insurance system of parcels between the United Kingdom, France, and Seychelles.

(5.) The arrangement with the British and French Post Offices under which a sender of an insured parcel can obtain an acknowledgment of its delivery.

(6.) The introduction of a direct exchange of parcels between Colombo and Seychelles by steamers of the German East Africa

Company, which run between Rangoon, Colombo, Seychelles, and Zanzibar.

To meet the development of the Post Office, it became necessary last year to re-organise the staff, and to add a Chief Clerk. The changes made have so far worked satisfactorily.

Mail Service.

65. The monthly mails to and from Seychelles were carried with great punctuality throughout last year by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company on payment of 2,000 francs a call, inwards and outwards, and on exemption from payment of all port dues and taxes whatsoever. Instances of delay in delivery of goods owing to non-shipment at Marseilles at the proper time or to over-carriage to Mauritius, the terminus of the lines, were numerous.

Telegraph Statistics, 1899 to 1903.

66. I am indebted to the Superintendent of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company at this Station for the following telegraph statistics:—

Year ending 31st March.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Number of cablegrams received and sent.	1,767	1,967	2,244	2,399	2,276

The termination of hostilities in South Africa is the fortunate cause of the falling off, during the year, ended the 31st March last, of the total number of cablegrams, as during the war more cablegrams were received respecting its operations than, under the arrangement made with Reuter's Agency, need have been sent to Seychelles.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Coronation Celebrations.

67. The year 1902 will always be memorable in Seychelles for the local celebrations in honour of the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen.

In common with all other parts of the Empire, Seychelles had shared the overwhelming anxiety caused by the news that the King had been struck down on the eve of his Coronation, and it also participated in the heartfelt joy with which the

tidings of His Majesty's recovery were received in every corner of the globe. It was thus that in August, in a quickened spirit of loyalty and gratitude, there were held in different parts of Seychelles Special Services commemorative of the King's Coronation, and, in the principal centres of population, festivities, including regattas and athletic sports, such as had not been seen before in these Islands.

Labour Question.

68. The question of importing labourers, which for many years has been so much discussed, was advanced another stage last year. The Secretary of State has approved of coolies being imported from Madras, provided all costs of introduction are paid by the requisitionist, and return passages at the end of five years are guaranteed; and the British India Company are prepared to send a special steamer from Madras to Seychelles if the number of emigrants from Madras is not less than 140. The costs of importation, all charges included, will not exceed Rs. 135 a head, and this amount and the cost of return passages to India will be more than covered by the lower rates of wages to be paid during five years, whilst the advantage of having settled on a plantation a reliable number of labourers would be very great. It has been publicly notified that the Government will engage 70 out of the total 140 coolies if planters can make up requisitions for the remaining 70, but so far no applications have been received.

Wages.

69. Wages for local labour remain much the same as during the last three years, namely, estate and ordinary labourers, Rs. 144 to Rs. 192 a year; domestic servants, Rs. 192 to Rs. 300 a year; carpenters, Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 a month; masons, Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 a month; and blacksmiths, Rs. 25 to Rs. 60 a month. Seychelles is not, as has been pointed out in previous Reports, a "white man's country," and although, owing to the exceptional healthiness of the climate, Europeans who are temperate and careful do well in Seychelles, and can safely undertake the management of estates, they cannot sustain constant manual labour under a tropical sun.

Public Works.

70. Irrespective of the sum of Rs. 40,021 41c., which was the total expenditure last year of the four Local Boards of Health, and the greater part of which was expended on improvements and repairs to streets, roads, and bridges in Victoria, in the South Mahé District, in Praslin, and in La Digue, there were expended last year on the maintenance, repair and improvement of public roads and buildings Rs. 27,689 60c.; on

new buildings, new roads, and new water-works Rs. 61,722 42c.; and on new roads, the cost of which was met from the balance of Loan Funds, Rs. 12,179 97c. Thus the expenditure controlled by the Public Works Department in 1902 reached the respectable figures of Rs. 101,591 99c.

Roads.

71. As regards road work, which still remains the most important work in Seychelles, the result was that, in addition to extensive repairs and improvements to roads and the maintenance of all existing roads in better condition than in past years, about eight miles of new roads, over very difficult country, including three bridges and several culverts, were constructed. Among these roads it is satisfactory to include the completion of the Forêt Noire Road, extending from Victoria on the East across the mountain to Port Glaud on the North-West of Mahé. This road, which was begun some 30 years ago, is 9 miles in length, and the last two and a half miles on the Port Glaud side were completed during the twelve months from July, 1901, to June, 1902. Other parts of the road, which had never been properly finished, were re-made last year, and repairs to the last section are now nearing completion. During nearly the whole length the road is in first class order, and Port Glaud can be reached with ease, on horseback or on foot, in some three hours, a marked contrast to the state of affairs three years back.

Public Buildings.

72. Of Public buildings completed, or nearly completed in 1902, the most important were the Administrator's new Offices and Council Chamber, a handsome stone and coral building, the total cost of which has been Rs. 27,516 41c.; the Victoria School buildings, costing last year Rs. 8,956 25c., and now nearly finished; a new Police Station at Anse Boileau, erected at a cost of Rs. 2,669 79c.; and a new Police Station at La Digue, which cost Rs. 3,603 3c.

Trade depression in 1902, but no lack of Employment.

73. There can be little doubt that the Government exercised a wise discretion last year in expending so large a sum as that mentioned in paragraph 70 on public works of a useful if not immediately remunerative nature. The quantity of vanilla exported in 1902 was 60,862 kilos., that is only 11,037 kilos. less than in 1901, and 19,027 kilos. more than the amount exported in any previous year. But the prices realised by sales were unexpectedly low, and growers and buyers alike found that the margin of profit was small after all expenses had been

paid. In many cases money had been borrowed in 1901 on the crop before it had been gathered or sold, and borrowers found it difficult to repay the loans. The result was that in 1902 money was scarce, and trade depressed, and had not the Government been able to give work to skilled and unskilled labourers, many men would have been thrown out of employment throughout the year. The Public Works Department has good grounds for regarding with satisfaction the many public works efficiently and economically carried out in 1902.

Boards and Committees.

74. I am glad to be able to record good work done by all Boards and Committees in 1902. By the reconstruction in 1900 of the Quarantine Committee, by the creation of a representative Education Committee in the same year, by the appointment in 1901 of a Local Board of Health for the Town of Victoria, and of similar Boards in 1902 for Praslin, La Digue, and the district of South Mahé, on which principal members of the community have accepted seats, and lastly, by bringing into existence in 1901 an Agricultural Board specially constituted to advise the Government on all questions and matters concerning Agriculture or Botanical Stations and Gardens, much has been done to widen the basis of the Government, and to terminate the divorce which apparently existed between the Government and the people. It should be the object of the governing body to strengthen the bond of identity of interests by which all classes should be united, and by sympathetic actions and a sympathetic attitude to endeavour to disabuse people of the opinion that the principal role of the Government is that of the unsympathetic and exacting tax-gatherer, the members of this Government being both under-worked and over-paid. If anything done during the present administration has served to weaken this view, which unfortunately has prevailed in Seychelles, then the labours of the last three and a half years have not been thrown away, and the ground is being prepared for still better work in the years to come.

E. B. Sweet-Escott,

Administrator.

Government House,

Seychelles,

24th June, 1903.

REPORT ON LABOUR, BOTANIC STATIONS, COCOANUT PLANTATIONS AND INDUSTRIES, IN CEYLON AND THE EAST.

I.—INTRODUCTION.

Upon the recommendation of Sir W. Thiselton Dyer, K.C.M.G., and under instructions received from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, and His Honour the Administrator, I was directed to proceed to Ceylon and the Eastern Archipelago to study the methods of cultivation of tropical plants in use in those Countries with the object of introducing new industries into Seychelles, and of making preliminary enquiries as to the possibility of recruiting labourers from Ceylon.

I was also asked to study the organisation and work of the various Botanic Stations of that part of the world.

In compliance with these orders, I left Seychelles on the 5th August, 1902, and reported my arrival in Colombo on the 12th of that month; from that date till the 26th October I was occupied in studying the Botanic Gardens of Peradeniya, Hakgala, and Heneratgoda, the Government model and dairy farms, and the following industries:—

Cocoanut.—Fibre mills in Colombo and Negombo dessicating mills; oil mills in Colombo; plantations in Negombo, Mirigama, and Undegama.

Cinnamon.—In Colombo and Negombo.

Tobacco.—Plantations in Negombo.

Pottery works.—Colombo, Negombo, and Peradeniya.

Cocoa.—Peradeniya, Matale, and Kurunegalla.

Tea.—Peradeniya.

Nutmegs.—Kurunegalla.

Fruit trees.—Mirigama.

Panama rubber.—Matale.

Para rubber.—Kaltura.

Plumbago mines.—Kaltura.

Citronella oil.—Galle and Baddegama.

Betel nut.—Colombo.

Pepper betel.—Colombo.

On the 26th October I left Colombo for Singapore where I arrived on the 1st of November. I stayed in the Straits, the Federated Malay States and Sumatra from that date till the 2nd December, on which date I proceeded to Java, returning to Singapore on the 20th. All that time I was employed in

visiting the Botanic Stations of Singapore, Penang, and Buitenzorg, and in collecting information regarding the industries enumerated below:—

Dye works.—Singapore.
Tanning works.—Singapore.
Indigo.—Singapore.
Pineapples.—Singapore.
Cocoanuts.—Singapore and Penang.
Sago.—Singapore.
Nutmegs.—Singapore, Penang, and Java.
Mangosteen.—Singapore and Penang.
Gutta percha.—Singapore, Malacca, and Java.
Rattan.—Singapore.
Gambir.—Malacca.
Tapioca.—Malacca and Wellesley Province.
Tin mines.—Selangor.
Para rubber.—Klang (Selangor).
Assam rubber.—Klang, Java.
Liberian coffee.—Klang, Java.
Pepper.—Penang, Java.
Fruit trees.—Penang, Java.
Tobacco.—Deli (Sumatra).
Cinchona.—Java.

On the 26th December I left Singapore, and on the 1st January I landed at Colombo. No steamer being bound for Seychelles before the 18th February, I proceeded at once to unpack and re-pot the plants brought from the East, to sow such of the valuable seeds that I had obtained which were likely to lose their germinating power, and to collect plants and various agricultural products of Ceylon. I also visited the Cardamon and Cola plantations which were not in bearing at the time of my previous visit to Ceylon.

I am directed to report upon the studies I have made and to submit my reports in the form of circulars, the first of which on cocoanuts I herewith annex for the use of interested planters. In the first place, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude all the assistance which has been given me in Ceylon by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, by the Assistant Colonial Secretaries, by the Officers in charge of the Botanical and Agricultural Departments; in the Straits and the Malay Peninsula, by His Excellency the Governor, by the Colonial Secretary, by the Resident Councillors of Malacca and Penang and the Resident of Selangor, and by Messrs. Ridley and Curtis; in Java and Sumatra, by the Governor-General and by all the Officers of the Botanical and Agricultural Departments; and in all these Countries by a great number of planters and industrial men who afforded me a cordial welcome and to whom I am indebted for the full and accurate information with which I was supplied on many points of interest in tropical cultivation.

II.—GENERAL REMARKS.

Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, and Seychelles possess a great similarity of soil and climate. Sumatra and Java have the same climate but far better soil, derived from volcanic rocks.

Whilst travelling in the East, many Countries appeared to me of such an aspect with regard to soil and vegetation that I had the illusion of still being in Seychelles.

In Penang especially, the same hills and valleys are to be seen with the same huge granitic boulders scattered about and sometimes hanging on the slopes, and the same red and yellow tuff mixed with the same particles of quartz and ironstone. The hill sides exhibit the same patches of red soil with the same ferns (Gleichenia) growing all round. The Seychelles group of islands are supposed to be formed of the summits of the mountains of a continent which has subsided.

Except in some localities, the precipitous hills in these islands rise abruptly from the sea shore, whilst in Ceylon, and all the Malay Archipelago, the land rises only far in the interior. But in Seychelles, Ceylon, and the Straits, the same acid igneous, intermediate igneous, and schistose rocks are found on the highlands, and the same derivative rocks on the low-lands where iron-stones and calcareous rocks also abound.

Amongst the latter, it may be worth mentioning that not far from Java, in the Christmas Islands, phosphatic rocks derived from guano deposits have recently been found, the composition of which is similar to the guano exported from Seychelles.

Although analyses of the Straits and Seychelles soils are as yet not numerous, the following comparison will, however, serve to show their analogy with the soils of Ceylon from a chemical point of view:—

—	Ceylon Soils				Straits Soil.	Seychelles Soil.
	Tea Estate.	Cocoa Estate.	Cardamon Estate.	Cocoanut Estate.		
	1.	2.	3	4.	—	
Sand	71·44	—	—	—	—	75·12
Clay	15·30	—	—	—	—	15·52
Organic Matter	11·57	—	—	—	—	—
Lime	0·138	0·420	0·140	0·110	—	0·030
Magnesia ...	0·268	0·864	0·201	0·036	—	0·010
Potash	0·217	0·193	0·117	0·022	0·180	0·034
Phosphoric Acid	0·141	0·051	0·040	0·019	0·060	0·081
Nitrogen ...	0·160	0·065	0·388	0·101	0·164	0·126

In all the soils examined there is a great percentage of sand already, and the action of rain turns them into a still more sandy state owing to the particles of clay being washed out.

The clayey soils in all these countries are seldom very stiff, being intermixed with coarse particles of quartz and sometimes, but more commonly in the Straits and Ceylon than in Seychelles, with big pebbles derived from ironstones, which make them more porous and quite suitable for cultivation.

With reference to the climate of the three Colonies, the following figures show again a great similarity:—

Air Temperature.

Month.	Ceylon (Lowlands).	Penang.	Singapore.	Seychelles.
January	79·1	80·6	77·2	82
February	80·2	80·2	77·3	82
March	81·9	81·4	78·9	82
April	82·5	81·4	79·9	83
May	82·5	81·2	80·6	83
June	81·0	80·4	81·4	80
July	80·6	81·2	81·9	79
August	80·7	80·3	81·1	78
September... ...	80·8	81·9	80·1	79
October	80·2	78·8	79·8	82
November... ...	79·8	79·9	79·4	82
December	79·1	80·2	77·9	80
Year ...	80·7	80·6	79·6	81

Rainfall.

Month.	Ceylon (Lowlands).	Penang.	Singapore	Seychelles 1901.
January	3·51	1·01	17·97	12·53
February	1·94	2·68	8·78	16·00
March	4·76	5·94	3·38	14·00
April	11·34	10·62	8·87	9·66
May	11·86	5·42	3·63	5·27
June	8·28	7·78	5·66	4·52
July	4·46	4·91	2·11	4·01
August	3·68	6·69	4·62	1·33
September... ...	4·94	14·77	6·73	12·12
October	14·03	26·53	7·51	4·88
November... ...	12·77	9·84	8·30	8·22
December	6·26	3·33	8·77	9·72
Year ...	87·83	99·52	86·33	102·26

Relative Humidity.

Month.	Ceylon	Penang.	Singapore.	Seychelles.
January	76	66	84	79
February	76	66	76	76
March	76	69	77	76
April	76	74	82	74
May	80	73	79	75
June	81	72	77	73
July	80	94	72	74
August	82	71	75	71
September... ...	81	72	81	74
October	83	74	80	73
November	83	69	82	77
December	81	65	81	77
Year ...	79	72	79	75

With such a great analogy between the soils and climates of Ceylon, the Straits, and Seychelles, it is natural to find in the three Colonies the same vegetation and the same genera of indigenous plants. Amongst the latter I may mention some species of Afzelia, Nepenthes, Morinda, Ipomœa, Melastoma, besides all the plants of the sea shore (Barringtonia, Terminalia, Heritiera, Callophyllum, &c.) which have been disseminated by the strong currents of the South Seas, and the existence of which in these various parts of the Indian Ocean has long strengthened the hypothesis of a continent having existed between the Seychelles Islands and the Malay Archipelago.

The presence of these trees and many others which are closely allied to those of Seychelles is the best proof that, from a botanical point of view, all agricultural industries carried on in the Straits and Ceylon can be undertaken with profit in Seychelles.

III.—LABOUR.

At the time of my visit to Ceylon, the Kelani Railway line was being completed, and many labourers employed in that work were about to return to India. It was then easy enough for me to take steps to secure the services of 100 of them at wages varying between Rs. 12 and Rs. 14, under engagements for three years, the cost of recruiting them, including medical inspection, amounting only to Rs. 8. A passage from Colombo to Seychelles by the German East African Steamers being Rs. 25, the labour force selected and intended to form a nucleus for ultimate South Indian immigration into Seychelles would

have cost very little, but the Ceylon Government were unable, under the Immigration Act, to grant me permission to recruit labourers in that Colony for service in Seychelles.

The only practicable scheme for Seychelles is to obtain labourers from Madras, and, in this connection, it may be interesting to mention the conditions under which South Indian immigrants are introduced into Ceylon and the Malay Peninsula.

In Ceylon the Government maintain a schooner service between Penumben and Manaar, with boats on both sides to land passengers. European immigration superintendents and subordinate officers are paid by the Government, and the charge per coolie is 25 cents of a rupee for the passage across. Hospitals and Rest Houses for coolies are kept all along, with rest houses every 10 miles on the Ceylon side.

The 120 miles of road from Manaar to Matale are patrolled daily. The annual amount expended by the Ceylon Government is from Rs. 100,000 to Rs. 150,000.

Planters pay only the 25 cents passage money on crossing. All coolies are provided with certificates of arrival, on presentation of which at railway stations they are entitled to a reduction on their tickets of 10 cents of a rupee for every ten miles.

The Government also maintains other coolie rest houses or open sheds for the Colombo-Juticorin route, emigration officers at Colombo and quarantine establishments. The Juticorin-Colombo steamers are not subsidised.

The recruiting system preferred in Ceylon is the system of lump expenses, the Kangani alone being responsible and the coolies are not engaged.

The wages run as follows:—

——	—	To the Kangani.	—
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Men	0·33	+0·05	=0·38
Women	0·25	+0·05	=0·30
Children	0·12	+0·05	=0·17

In spite of all these easy means of recruiting labour from South India, many planters I have met in Ceylon seemed to complain of the scarcity of labour and of the risk they run in sending their Kangani to India with advances of money.

In the Straits and Malay States the Kangani system is not adopted for the Indian coolies, and it appears that whilst the coffee planters prefer the free system of immigration, the sugar cane planters prefer to deal with indentured labour.

The following are the terms lately proposed by a meeting of planters officially held in Penang (October, 1902) for the recruitment of Statute labourers in South India for employment in the Colony and Protectorate:—

(1.) Period of Service.

600 working days with the provision that no labourer shall under any circumstance be detained on an estate or other place where he is employed for more than three years.

(2.) Nature of Labour.

Agricultural estates, maintenance of roads, railways, drains, and irrigation works, brick-making, and quarrying.

(3.) Number of days on which the Immigrant is required to Labour.

Six days of 9 hours in each week and such time on Sundays as is necessary for cleaning lines and such other essential labour.

(4.) Wages.

Men will be paid 20 cents a day for each day's work performed, with free rations as per scale, when working on agricultural estates or on maintenance or construction works, and living in lines close to an open cart road or railway at a convenient distance from a town or village; 25 cents per day for each day's work performed, with free rations as above, when ordered to work on maintenance or construction works and living in lines close to an open road or railway more than 10 miles distant from a town or village; 30 cents per day for each day's work performed, with free rations as above, when ordered to work on maintenance or construction works and living in lines which are not close to an open road or railway.

Adult women and boys under 18, but above 15 years of age, will be paid at three-fourths of the above rates for every day's work performed by them, and will also receive free rations as per scale.

Children between 12 and 15 years of age will, if they labour, receive wages at three-fourths of the contract rate for adults, and full rations according to the prescribed scale.

Children under 10 years of age living with, and dependent on statute immigrants will receive rations free at the rate of one-third of the prescribed scale for adults.

(5.) Conditions as to Return Passage.

Immigrants must pay their own return passage.

(6.) Other Conditions.

Immigrants will be provided with houses or lines rent free.

In case of sickness, medical attendance, medicine, and nourishment will be provided free of charge.

Scale of rations:—	lbs.	ozs.	
Rice (pulunga)	1	8	per day.
Dholl	2	0	per month.
Salt fish	2	0	„
Ghee or oil...	1	0	„
Salt	1	0	„

N.B.—Rs. 35 should be sufficient for coolies recruited for labour on agricultural estates.

Besides Indian coolies, other labourers from China and Java are employed in the Straits and the Malay Peninsula, with wages amounting to 7 to 10 dollars a month.

In Sumatra, the Tobacco Planters' Association have adopted a free immigration system from China by steamers chartered by the different companies through the care of a special agent in Swatow. Coolies are sent from estates and bring back their friends. A new coolie costs 75 dollars; 25 dollars is written to his debt and 50 dollars the planters write off.

With regard to the Malays, they are never, or very seldom, employed as labourers, being more inclined to work as domestic servants, coachmen, or policemen.

IV.—BOTANIC STATIONS.

It seems to be well established now in the East that Botanic gardens properly speaking, where collections of plants are raised for instruction and for sale, do not afford sufficient means for the improvement of the agricultural conditions of a country, and that experimental plantations worked scientifically are necessary for that purpose. The results obtained at the Botanic Gardens of Buitenzorg as compared with those obtained at the Botanic Gardens of Ceylon and the Straits, have shown that scientific researches in the gardens must be completed by experimental work in the fields.

The Botanical Department of Buitenzorg (Java) was established early this century for the study and propagation of new cultural methods. Its laboratories, libraries, museums, and the experimental fields attached to it have a permanent staff of a dozen well-remunerated scientists and their assistants to publish reports of the highest practical value and to give most useful recommendations to planters. The total expenses of this Department amount to Rs. 300,000 annually.

The Ceylon Agricultural Department was considerably enlarged in 1901. A scientific division has been created and necessary action has been taken to acquire a whole estate of 500 acres for experimental plantations. The services of a mycologist, of an entomologist, and of an agricultural chemist have been retained. A vote is also provided for scientific assistants (one or two). The total expenses for 1901 amounted to Rs. 71,000, excluding the cost of purchase of the estate of 500 acres, which is placed under the management of one of the Scientific Assistants and under the direction of the whole staff of the Botanic Gardens and two prominent planters.

The work of the Scientific division of Peradeniya is already much appreciated, and the Branch Gardens at Hakgala, Henerat-goda, Anuradhapura, and Badulla, at different altitudes, give opportunities for carrying on investigations in the different soils and climates of Ceylon.

Special mention must be made of the first of these Branch Gardens, which is situated in a delightful country with regard to scenery and climate, and which is further enriched by a very handsome collection of European plants, which have been cultivated with great skill.

In the Straits and Malay Peninsula there is the Botanic Garden of Singapore, established in 1860 by the Agri-Horticultural Society and handed over to Government in 1874. The extent of the gardens amounted to 66 acres up to 1884. At that time, the late director, Mr. Cantley, applied for a piece of land reserved for the Military Department, and a plot of 100 acres was annexed to it for the establishment of an Economic Garden. Mr. Cantley, together with Mr. Ridley, the present Director, have succeeded in establishing a very nice collection of all the economic plants of the tropics, grouped according to their natural order. Unfortunately the vote for the ornamental and economic gardens is only Rs. 11,000, exclusive of the salary of the Director which amounts to Rs. 10,000, and this amount is sufficient to cover only the cost of plantations and of upkeep, and does not admit of experimental plantations being carried on with the aid of scientists.

In Penang, the Waterfall Botanic Gardens look like a reproduction of Peradeniya in their delightful scenery and beautifully laid out collection of plants, and the show of orchids is finer than in any garden in the East. Many economic plants can be found in these gardens, but no experimental fields have as yet been supplied to the Director, except pieces of land on Penang hill, when some time back European fruit trees were tried without success.

This necessity for the proper organisation of the Agricultural Departments of the Malay Peninsula is now being attended to, and owing to the energy of the United Planters' Association of the Federated Malay States, the original scheme of establishing

an economic garden has been modified, and a plot of land carefully selected, and of an extent of 200 acres in Selangor, will soon be laid out under the control of a Committee and of the Superintendent of the Experimental plantations.

It is fortunate that everywhere in the East scientific establishments are being created on a firm footing, and it is to be hoped that progress will be maintained, and that the example of Buitenzorg will be followed. Every planter now admits the necessity of establishing experimental plantations and of asking scientists to classify the results which are obtained in the fields, and which sometimes he cannot explain. Indeed, what is important to know is in what direction an industry can be improved, and it is impossible to make a step in this direction without referring to scientific researches and experimental plantations. Two examples, among others, will better serve to illustrate the point in quesion:—

1. The Cinchona industry has progressed rapidly in Java during the last 25 years owing to chemical researches and new methods of selection, and during that time an incomplete organisation of the Botanical Department of Ceylon has not allowed the planters of the latter Colony to follow the same methods. The result has been that the Ceylon planters were compelled to abandon the cultivation of this useful plant which is still being improved in Java.

2. Citronella oil has lately been improved by the Agricultural Department of Java, whilst in Ceylon and the Straits this industry was left more or less in the hands of natives. Java oil is now worth 1*s.* 4*d.*, whilst Ceylon oil reaches 10*d.* with difficulty. This new competition has not escaped the attention of the Director of the Ceylon Botanical Department, who, assisted by the agricultural chemist, is already preparing the ground for the improvement of the Ceylon industry.

It may not be out of place to mention here also, that in Java the gutta-percha industry has been studied scientifically for the last 20 years, whilst the cultivation of this exceptionally useful plant is only now being started in the other Colonies.

V.—COCOANUT PLANTATIONS AND INDUSTRIES IN CEYLON AND THE EAST.

(A.) Plantations.

There is, perhaps, no tree in the world which is cultivated to such an extent, and the products of which are always so much in demand, as the cocoanut. However, in spite of the big market which is opened to its products, one cannot say that its cultivation has been much improved up to this date. An

attempt was made by European planters in Ceylon, about the year 1850, to cultivate the cocoanut trees on a large scale, but, from want of scientific guidance and knowledge of the requirements of this plant, the plantations, which were made in too dry districts and in improper soils, were soon given up, and the natives were, until very lately, the sole cultivators of this valuable palm. The Cinghalese admit with difficulty that a system of cultivation handed over from their remote ancestors can possibly be wrong, and still are imbued with the strange idea that the more trees there are on a given surface, the greater will be the crop. It is only recently in some districts, such as Negombo, Chilaw, Mirigama, Kurunegalla, and the Eastern Province, that Europeans have started new plantations, adopted new methods of cultivation, and have already obtained results which are hardly surpassed in any other agricultural enterprise. It is this improved method of cultivation which I propose to describe, omitting all other methods which it is hoped, will soon be considered as being worthless by the natives themselves.

Varieties.

The following varieties are cultivated in Ceylon:—

1. Soft edible husk variety (Navassi), light green in colour, even when matured; husk separates freely.
2. King Cocoanut.—Reddish orange even inside (Rang-tambilli).
3. King Cocoanut.—Light yellow (Gontambilli).
4. King Cocoanut.—Green outside, flesh pinkish, employed for medicinal purposes (Rathtambilli).
5. Maldive Cocoanut.—Tree and fruit very small (Gundura).
6. Siamese Cocoanut.—very big, spherical.
7. Half a dozen varieties of ordinary size and shape, some green, others reddish brown.

Only Nos. 6 and 7 are planted for industrial purposes.

In the Straits and Malay States the same varieties are found, and are quite as good as the Ceylon varieties. A new variety, called the Champion cocoanut, heavy and an early bearer, is at present in great favour among the planting community of the Straits.

Selection.

Medium size nuts possessing a thin husk, from a heavy bearing tree, are preferred. Big nuts give small crops; oblong nuts are invariably rejected. The nut should be round at the fore end and contain a small quantity of water which is a sign of maturity.

Some planters always select nuts from trees having horizontal branches (leaves), attached to the stem, very near each other. Trees with bending branches oblige the planter to support the bunches of fruits by means of forked sticks fixed by one end into the stem. If left hanging, the nuts drop off from the bunches. The selection of nuts from trees having erect leaves should be avoided. These trees are always poor bearers, and the position of their leaves is due sometimes to their having been cultivated in the shade, and this defect is apparently transmitted to their descendants.

Nursery.

A good piece of land should be selected where water is available. The nuts remain four months in the nursery. They may be kept there eight months, and watering is necessary every two days in dry weather. In the case of the nuts being kept in the nursery eight months, or more, they should be planted wide apart, from 3 or 4 feet to 18 inches apart being sufficient in ordinary nurseries. The nuts should be placed on the side just as they are naturally placed when fallen on the ground, and half buried in a deep and loose soil.

Sometimes the natives place the nuts in the nursery with the big end upwards, and in the Malay Peninsula the nuts are left hanging down from branches of trees in the shade until germinated.

Planting.

Circular or square holes (the latter are more easily dug), 3 feet deep and 2½ feet wide, made in May in N.E.-S.W. direction, are placed 24 to 26 feet apart, 24 feet being adopted in steep ground, and 26 feet on flat land. The holes are filled over one foot with good soil, and the nuts are placed in the position they occupied in the nursery, *i.e.*, on the side, and all the roots are cut down with a sharp knife before planting, and all plants with a "poor cabbage" (thin stems) are carefully avoided.

Transplanting.

Cocoanuts can be transplanted at any time, and this operation is conducted when they are too thickly planted. The trees are removed with a mass of earth, 3½ to 4 feet diameter, and transported by means of a cart drawn by a pair of bulls. They lose their leaves, the heart only remaining green, and if carefully watered during the dry weather they take root in six months. Such trees show signs of transplantation in the stem, which is narrower at the point corresponding to the period of growth between the time of transplanting and the time of complete recovery.

Weeding.

Up to the third year plantations should be kept clean and weeds buried. After that time it is only necessary to pull up by hand bad weeds, and to leave leguminous plants and other good fodder grasses untouched. The cost of weeding amounts to R. 1 for the first three years, and 75c. afterwards. In very dirty plantations, at least for the first two years, weeding can be carried on, at a radius of 6 feet round the trees, by women for 19c. a day. In places where the jungle is thick, the shrubs are cut down twice a year during the whole time when the trees are young. One man cuts the small trees with a knife, while two others are employed to destroy the suckers and creepers with hoes.

Loosening the Soil.

The big roots of the cocoanuts must be given a free circulation in the soil, and all soils which are not sandy enough must be loosened. This operation is better conducted at the time of weeding and green manuring, and the three operations combined cost Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 an acre when hand labour is used, and Rs. 2 75c. when two buffaloes are employed for ploughing and cross-ploughing. In gravelly soils where ploughs and hoes can do no good work, the soil is loosened to a depth of 18 inches by means of a trampick, which has a handle like a spade, or by digging forks. In stiff soils it is better to use the hoe or the Swedish plough, which costs from Rs. 75 to Rs. 85 in Colombo.

Manuring.

Lately green manuring has been started on some estates and in the Negombo district especially. Sensitive plants, containing about 1 per cent. nitrogen, and other small leguminous plants are dug into the soil every two years at the time of weeding. There is no doubt that leguminous weeds, cultivated between the lines of cocoanut trees, besides their well-known fertilizing action, are valuable as " catch crops " for the manures which are liberally employed, and which may not be totally absorbed in the rainy season by the roots of the cocoanuts. It is also worth while experimenting green-manuring with those leguminous shrubs which, like the wild indigo, are extremely hardy and stand any weather. These shrubs let drop a great mass of leaves on the ground, which form a good supply of organic matter and kill the weeds by shading them closely.

Besides green-manuring, the following method is employed by a planter of Negombo to manure his cocoanut fields. He has 215 head of cattle and the plantations occupy 486 acres. The village cattle, numbering 121 head, are allowed also to graze freely on the estate. The cattle which do not work graze all day long. At night time they are tied in couples to

a tree. They are so accustomed to be tied that they come to the tree by themselves at the night time.

50 are fed in the shed and kept for work; they are tied whenever they are free from work in the fields.

The following formulæ of manures have also proved successful on the same estate:—

A.—2 lbs. Thomas Phosphate
1 lb. Sulphate of Ammonia } per tree.
1 lb. Chloride of Potassium

Good results in free sandy soil are visible in 6 months, not good in clayey and gravelly soils. The crops were increased 15 months after application.

B.—Cattle tied 5 days (nights) 100 lbs.
Castor cake, 5lbs.
Bone meal, 3 lbs.

Good results even in gravelly and clayey soils.

C.—Cattle tied 6 days.
Castor cake, 6 lbs.
No bone.

Good result.

On a neighbouring well-known estate, a planter told me that in his opinion the trees require manures only when they are 12 to 15 years old. He employs:—

Cattle tied 6 days.
Crushed bones, 4 lbs.
Wood ashes, 8lbs.
Castor cake, 2 lbs.

The bones cost Rs. 60 to Rs. 65 per ton; castor cake, Rs. 65 to Rs. 70; and ashes, Rs. 10 to Rs. 12; and these manures are employed only each alternate year.

Besides cattle manure and ashes in Penang, it is the custom to give to the tree one gallon of salt. In Ceylon, the Government having the monopoly of salt manufacture, it is sold at too high a price to permit of its being employed as manure, although it could be "denatured" for that purpose.

Plucking and Collecting.

In Seychelles the nuts are never plucked but simply picked on the ground when they are employed for coprah manufacture. In Ceylon they are plucked at regular intervals, the coolies climbing up the trees or employing a long bamboo supplied with a hooked and very sharp knife when the trees are slippery and wet. In climbing, they use a circular "climber" made of the back part of the mid rib of Palmyrah

palm leaves, 14 inches in diameter. Each coolie measures his own "climber" round his knees brought together.

Much has been said about the advantages of allowing nuts to fall on the ground before picking them for coprah manufacture. The nuts are said to be more mature and to produce a greater quantity of oil. But plucking nuts has also its advantages, and I am decidedly in favour of this latter system of gathering the crops:—

1. Because the nuts being plucked every month on the trees instead of every two months, as seems to be the rule on some estates, there is a chance of gathering only ripe nuts, since these come to maturity every month.

2. Because a great many analyses of coprah made in Ceylon compare favourably with those made in Seychelles with regard to the percentage of oil contained in this product. However, this question has not, as yet, been fully investigated; nuts dropped and nuts plucked during several succeeding years from the same trees not having been analysed simultaneously.

3. Because it is an error to think that plucking entails a considerable amount of labour. In Seychelles, collecting and transporting nuts cost about R. 1 25c. per thousand, a man gathering 400 nuts per diem and receiving about the same salary as in Ceylon (Rs. 12 instead of Rs. 10 a month).

In this latter Colony, the method of plucking is as follows:— 5 men are only employed for a whole estate of 24,000 trees in bearing, 4 women collecting in convenient heaps within reach of the carts. On one estate which I visited, the thorny sensitive plant being grown for green manuring, the women were provided with boots and the men with shoes paid for by the owners. The men and women are paid Rs. 125 to pluck and collect the whole crop, or they receive 62c. per 100 trees when they do not work under contract. The trees producing 60 nuts per annum, 6,000 nuts are thus plucked for 62c., and the cost of transport in carts amounts to 62c. also per 1,000. The total cost of 1,000 nuts plucked and transported to the heaping place is therefore only 73c., instead of R. 1 25c. in the previous case. The question of plucking in Seychelles is only co-relative with the difficulty of labour, or more exactly with the habit of the labourers, and has nothing to do with increasing the expenses, as is generally believed.

4. Because when the nuts are plucked, the coolies engaged in the work clean the trees from the well-known network of dried stalk and branches (leaves), which are a hiding place for rats and all sorts of vermin, besides preventing air and light from getting into the inside of the trees. On a carefully cultivated estate, I have been shown a good example of a tree not having been climbed for plucking for the last three years, on account of a bees' nest placed on the branches. A big cluster of dried stalks and branches was hanging down the

stem, thus forming a refuge for rats and bats, and presenting a striking contrast with the neighbouring trees which were bearing ten times as many nuts.

Of course when the nuts are plucked only every two months, and since they come to maturity every month, half of the nuts plucked are unripe, but in this case they are allowed to wither for one month at least before being sent to the drying house. A similar disadvantage is met with when the nuts are picked on the ground which is not kept clean; a great many nuts which have fallen out of sight, are gathered too late, when they are already germinating, and in such case nothing will make the nuts good for coprah manufacture.

The coprah made from green nuts is of a yellowish butter colour instead of the characteristic ashy colour, and this distinction may serve as a guide to control the plucking besides the appearance of the nuts and the well known sound they produce on tapping them with the finger.

YIELD.

The following is a tabulated return of an estate in Negombo, consisting of 486 acres on which 21,300 trees are at present in bearing. The soil is gravelly and clayey.

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Rainfall	96·39	85·41	90·64	61·09	62·63	69·12	—
Total Nuts ...	848,320	1,134,821	1,067,637	1,075,011	943,728	958,726	1,300,000
Nuts per Tree ...	44	58	53	52	45	45	62

The rainfall has a great influence on the yielding power of the trees. The crops of 1900 and 1901 being preceded by dry weather, 61 inches and 62 inches respectively, amount to 45 per tree, that of 1897 amounts to 58, with a rainfall in 1896 of 96 inches.

In 1901, the loosening of the soil, its proper weeding, and manuring were started, and the crop of 1902, although preceded by a comparatively dry season (69 inches), is the highest of all.

This last result may serve as a good illustration of the influence of good methods of cultivation applied to cocoanut trees.

On a neighbouring smaller estate, which is attached to the former, the same methods are employed, and the plantations, made on an alluvial soil which is inundated every four to five years, yield 113 nuts per tree per annum.

This yield may appear incredible, but it justifies plainly the idea that much can be done with the cocoanut trees when carefully cultivated.

For example, on this small estate, 36 acres in extent, which is leased for Rs. 4,200 per annum, the lessees obtain 300,000 nuts, sold at Rs. 37 25c. per 1,000, *i.e.*, Rs. 11,175, with the following expenditure:—

	Rs.	cts.
Superintendent	240	0
Weeding	312	50
Green manuring	412	50
Watching	300	0
Building	50	0
Picking and collecting	155	0
Transporting and sundries	310	0
	Rs. 1,780	0

Enemies and Diseases.

1. *Rats.*—On most of the estates I visited there are only a few rats, although there are no less than four species of rats in Ceylon, viz.:—

1. Ground rat.
2. House rat.
3. Musk rat.
4. Bandicoot.

This absence of rats is due, no doubt, to the presence of rat snakes, which are very common and harmless, and which catch also young hares. In a place like Seychelles where game is totally missing, it might be advantageous to employ a rat charmer to introduce these snakes.

2. *Beetles.*—Both the black and red beetles attack cocoanut trees in Ceylon. The red ones only attack young trees and penetrate by scars into the stem or by the inside of the lower leaves. They deposit their eggs, and the grubs eat the inside of the stem. The symptoms of the attack are the withering of young leaves. The remedy is to open a cavity big enough for the hand to go in and to cut and tar all the eaten or damaged part. The trees recover a year or two after they have been properly attended to. The well-known black beetle attacks young and old trees alike and eats the cabbage.

Rotten timber is bad for the propagation of both these pests, as well as rotten plantain stalks. For this reason plantains are never planted in cocoanut fields. Both insects hide in this rubbish, which must be burnt up. The black beetle is disappearing in Singapore and in Penang, where energetic measures have been adopted by the Government and burning of all rubbish and dead trees made compulsory.

3. *White Ants.*—Two or three months after planting the trees wither and the cabbage is easily pulled out. All nests must be destroyed at the foot of the trees in old plantations, and, where possible, bi-sulphide of carbon employed to poison the ants.

4. *Locust.*—A big green insect which eats the leaves. Boys are employed in catching them at 25 cents per hundred.

5. *The caterpillar of a black butterfly* also sometimes attacks cocoanut trees, producing a sort of web on the leaflets.

6. *Many fungi* attack also the cocoanut trees but these have as yet not been determined or identified. I have noticed sometimes, both in Ceylon and Seychelles, the bark of some trees becoming soft and putrid and emitting a claret coloured liquid. In other instances I have seen apparently healthy trees becoming suddenly diseased, the middle leaves hanging down along the stem and the heart leaves turning pale. These diseased trees when cut down show no sign of penetration by insects, and only the cabbage is decomposed whilst the stem remains unimpaired. On all plantations the trees attacked by undetermined diseases should be cut down at once and burnt without delay.

(B.) Industries.

(I.) Coprah Drying.

In Ceylon the nuts are generally sold to contractors who pay in the fields near the kiln from Rs. 35 to Rs. 47 a thousand. In Negombo, a well-known planter gave me the following figures for the prices at which he sold his nuts during the last five years:—

	Rs. cts.
1897	32 38
1898	34 10
1899	34 36
1900	36 46
1901	46 79

The estate labourers deliver the nuts to the contractors after counting them in a particular way.

10, 15, or 20 men are placed on one side of the heap according to its size. They take two nuts, one in each hand, and at a signal they throw both nuts behind them and form a fresh heap as they come along. The Kangani (sirdar) or one of the coolies counts one, two, &c., for each two nuts thrown behind. On reaching 100 (100 × 10 men × 2), 2,000 nuts are counted, and each man puts aside two nuts which serve for the buyer who receives 1 per cent. extra nuts.

One man counts easily 8,000 nuts in 10 hours, or 20 men 160,000 nuts in half a day.

The work of husking, splitting, drying, and storing is left to the Kangani of the contractor, and this Kangani receives R. 1 25c. from the contractor for every 1,000 dried nuts.

Packing and weighing remain to the charge of the contractor.

Coprah is dried by the smoking process in a very rapid way, and never fermented in heaps for 8 or 10 days as is done in Seychelles. In an ordinary shed a layer of laths is placed on wooden supports or old railway irons. The wooden supports sometimes break in the middle. The laths are made of areca palm stems and placed 5 to 6 feet above the ground. Instead of laths, wire netting (iron) is sometimes preferred in building the platform.

The layer of coprah on the platform must only be 8 or 9 inches. Two rows of shells are placed 3 feet apart all along the shed on the ground, parallel to its width, and the alternate rows are lit at the opposite ends. The shells must be dry; when wet they smoke, and smoke blackens the coprah. One row burns 12 hours. The fire is kept going day and night with intervals for cooling, in order to allow a coolie to get in and put the succeeding rows in position which are placed between the original rows.

After 36 hours the shell is taken off, and a period of 36 hours more is allowed for the drying of the kernel, which is placed with the opening downwards.

When the layer of kernels is too great, some of them are not dried quickly enough and fermentation sets in. This can be detected by the pale colour of one half of the kernel.

On the first day the temperature should be 150°, second day, 140° to 150°, and third day, 140°.

Mr. Carry, of Seringapathe estate, has invented a patented circular kiln covered with iron sheets.

The building is 30 feet in diameter and the walls made of bricks are 15 feet high. The platform is made of iron netting and is placed at 5 feet above the ground. The furnace is in the centre; one set of pipes leads the burning gases from the furnace to the hollow walls, and then the gases go back by return pipes to the chimney in the centre. The walls at ground level are perforated to let in the air, which is heated by the tubes, and passes upwards through the coprah.

The surface necessary to dry 1,000 nuts is 50 square feet, so that a platform of 640 square feet will dry 12,000 nuts in 3 days.

(2.) Fibre Mills.

The following is a description of a mill making 9,400 cwts. of fibre, with an annual expenditure of Rs. 37,000.

Crushing.

The husks are put into a crusher which is formed of two corrugated rollers. The corrugations work into each other allowing no space between them.

Fermenting.

The husks are then placed in cisterns or vats which are cemented and very strongly built, because the husks swell and create enormous pressure. The water is poured in only when the vats are full, and every day a new quantity of water is pumped in, the previous water being absorbed. Wooden bars, fastened to the masonry by iron bolts, keep the husks in the vats. The vats are 72 feet long,—the longer the better—because the husks can be floated to the mill a long distance apart. Their width is 12 feet and their depth 6 feet. Buttresses outside support the wall, every 8 or 10 feet apart. The husks remain a week at least; if kept longer it is so much the better, because the output is greater.

Breaking and Cleaning.

The husks are carried by three men to the breakers and cleaners. These machines are iron drums of about 2½ feet diameter, having right round them battens of wood filled with 20 to 30 spikes. The cleaners are worked in the following way:—

A man takes four husks, already cleaned both ways by the breakers, and cleans them twice both ways again, then he mixes them with four previously cleaned husks and passes them again both ways. The drums make 300 revolutions per minute. 70c. are paid for one cwt. of cleaned fibre.

Winnowing.

The mattress fibre, which is the refuse of the cleaners, is put into a winnowing machine with iron rods underneath and bars in the centre which beat the fibre. The dust falls out and the fibre comes out at the end opposite to the opening where it is put in.

Heckling.

Four rows of revolving long spikes knock out all the dust and short fibre from a bundle of long fibre which women hold in their hands. 6c. are paid per 10 lbs. of fibre.

Bleaching.

The fibres are bleached in a room covered with planks over which dry mud and sand are put, preventing the fumes of sulphur from getting out. One-quarter cwt. of sulphur is burnt under four shelves for 100 cwts. of bristle fibre.

PACKING.

The packing is better made by hydraulic presses. The bales of bristles are 2½ cwts. in weight, worth Rs. 11 50c. a cwt. or Rs. 28 75c. a bale. The mattress fibre is packed in bales of 22 lbs. and is worth Rs. 3 a cwt.

YIELD.

100 husks (entire) give—

lbs.		Rs.	c.	
9·6	of bristle fibre at	10	50	a cwt.
1·6	the leaf fibre at	3	0	„
20·0	mattress fibre at	3	0	„

The leaf is the refuse of the bristle and is employed in yarn making in Europe.

ENGINE.

A Babcock and Wilcox boiler is employed. Only 12 horse-power is necessary. 56c. of fuel are necessary per cwt. of fibre.

III.—DESICCATING MILLS.

PURCHASE OF RAW MATERIAL.

The nuts are husked before they are brought to the mills and selected into three sizes. 1°, smallest, 13 inches in circumference; 2°, medium, 15 inches; 3°, large, more than 15 inches. Selection is most important because the biggest nuts are those which give the best output in weight as well as in value. From two big nuts a pound of dried meal can be made, while four small nuts are usually necessary to produce this quantity. As the cost of the nuts is about three times as much as the cost of labour and all other expenses, it is important to buy only selected nuts, and to know exactly how many nuts go to a pound of meal.

SAWING AND SHELLING.

The nuts are first sawn into quarters by circular saws of 6-inch diameter, and shelled with a narrow iron tool or chisel. The cost of the labour required is 50c. per 1,000 nuts.

SCRAPING.

This operation consists in removing the rind by a spoke-shave, and costs 60c. per 1,000. It is important to have shavings as thin as possible, and not to have more than one candy (5 cwts.) of dried shavings per 1,000 nuts. The shavings are

dried two or three days in the sun, and sold for Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 a candy. The natives employ them to make the working of the coprah easy in the chekku (oil mill). After the scraping, it is important that all the water should be extracted from the nuts before they go into the washing tanks. The water is removed by chopping the nuts on the ground.

Washing.

Generally two washing tanks are used. In the first, boys scrape off any particles of rind which are left, by means of a sort of nutmeg grater. At the same time, all nuts with discoloured kernels (yellow or brown) are thrown aside and turned into coprah.

The nuts are sent into the second tank where they are simply stirred up in cleaner water and then go to the grating machine, which is worked by hand labour. Four boys, at 25c. each, work 10,000 nuts a day.

Grating.

A grating machine costs Rs. 525, and can work 1,500 lbs. of dried meal per day of 10 hours. Carter's disintegrator is the best machine for the purpose, when plenty of power is available, a machine needing from 4 to 6 horse-power to work it. It consists of a strong spindle with eight strong steel beaters working in a cast-iron case, the lower portion of which is formed of fine iron grating. The kernels of the nuts are forced through the grating and turned into powder. A man and two boys (R. 1 25c.) work 10,000 nuts in a day.

Where the power is insufficient, sawing machines are employed and consist of a series of closely set and fine toothed saws working at a high speed, and to which is attached an oscillating hopper. The nuts are left entire and put into the hopper.

Slicing.

Instead of being powdered, the kernels of the nuts are sometimes turned into slices by means of a slicing machine, which consists simply of a revolving disc fitted with 6 or 8 knives. The kernels are cut lengthwise into four slices, and these slices are put one inside the other and forced against the disc by hand pressure. The strips are then cut and fall through the disc. The slices are made thinner or thicker by altering the angle formed by the knife with the disc.

Slicing and flaking cost about the same, namely, Rs. 2 per 10,000 nuts. Mr. Vavasseur has got a special process for converting the kernels into threads.

Desiccating.

The o[illegible] is conducted in Brown's desiccator or the Venetian [illegible] The Venetian dryer is automatic and costs £230 more [illegible] Brown's desiccator, which is a simple machine,

costing £75. The slices or the meal, as the case may be, are dried at a temperature of 170° (maximum 175° and minimum 165°) during 15 to 20 minutes. The air is heated by the fire tubes, and the fire working at the end of the dryer draws the cold air through the tubes and over the trays. Four Brown's desiccators are necessary for 10,000 nuts a day, and the labour force required amounts to Rs. 4.

Cooling and Sifting.

The meal or slices are left on a zinc-lined table to cool (cool to the touch) and then sifted into three grades, fine, medium, and coarse. The sifting is done by women in hanging hand brass wire sieves, Nos. 8, 10, and 12, and costs R. 1 90c. per 10,000 nuts.

Packing.

The packing is done in chests measuring 22 by 19 by 19 inches inside and containing 130 lbs. of meal.

A chest costs R. 1 80c. including wood, tea lead, hoop iron, packing paper, &c.

Yield.

1,000 nuts give an average of 350 to 400 lbs. of dried stuff, which is sold at about 20c. a pound. When 400 lbs. of dried nuts are obtained, it means that only 2·5 nuts go to a pound. The working of these 2·5 nuts, according to above figures, will cost:—

	Cts.
Purchase of nuts	9·72
Working	2·98
	12·70

Machinery.

Machinery can be obtained from Messrs. Walker and Sons, Colombo, to whom I am much indebted for some of the above figures.

IV.—OIL FACTORIES.

Except that the native mills in Ceylon are made of stone (granite), and that the pestle is sometimes made of the cocoanut stems when wood is scarce, the method of working the coprah into oil is not different from that which is adopted by Seychelles planters. The extraction of oil is, however, generally made everywhere in the East by special machinery, which is not so expensive as is generally believed. Messrs. Walker and Sons of Colombo can supply a complete oil mill of the most approved type, suitable for treating about 3 to 4 cwts. of coprah per hour, if worked once only, or about 2 cwts. per hour, if worked twice over, for £400.

Disintegrating.

The coprah is first cleaned from dust and disintegrated by Carter's disintegrator. Edge stones can be employed instead of disintegrators.

Pressing.

The meal is then put into mat bags which are subjected to a hydraulic pressure of 2 tons per square inch. The new process consists in putting the meal into a cylindrical cage perforated with holes to allow the oil to escape, and up which the ram travels. The pressure is much greater in the new process, and the percentage of oil obtained sometimes reaches 63 per cent. of oil from good coprah after the operation has been repeated.

Rolling.

The cake is taken out and ground up again in another disintegrator and sifted. All the coarse meal is passed through Anglo-American rolls and reduced to fine meal.

Heating.

All the fine meal is put into the heating-kettle and heated by steam at about 30 lbs. pressure. The heating kettle is a big round tank of cast-iron, and stands on iron legs with a stirring apparatus and a hopper at the bottom.

Re-pressing.

The meal then passes to the finishing presses. The edges of the cakes richer in oil are cut with a moulding machine and also pressed again.

Filtering.

The oil is pumped into filtering tanks, clarified by gravitation during 24 hours, and then put into wooden casks (imported from Burmah).

Return.

Oil is sold at Rs. 375 a ton in Ceylon (Rs. 2 54c. for 10 bottles instead of R. 1 40c. in Seychelles), and poonac, Rs. 80 a ton; 62 per cent. of oil is extracted from coprah by the hydraulic presses, and, as I have already stated, I do not think that on an average more than 50 per cent. of oil is obtained from coprah in Seychelles.

R. Dupont,

Curator.

Botanic Station,

22nd June, 1903.

REPORT ON THE BOTANIC STATION FOR 1902.

I.—GENERAL REMARKS.

A great part of 1902 was spent by me in preparing for and in the execution of my mission in Ceylon and the East, which lasted from the beginning of August, 1902, to the end of February, 1903.

During my absence Mr. W. M. Vaudin, the Superintendent of Public Works, kindly looked after the Botanic Station, which was directly placed in the hands of Mr. Godley, the Sergeant Forest Ranger and Inspector of Roads, who has some knowledge of plants and of their cultivation. A prison gang of six men, which is generally placed at my disposal for three days a week, was during part of that time employed on other works, so that very little was done during the second half of the year in the way of improving the Botanic Station grounds, which need a good deal of labour to be made cultivable. Mr. Godley was also deprived of the services of the Sirdar of the Botanic Station, who left at the same time to go and fetch his wife and children in Mauritius. With such a reduced labour force it was only possible for the Superintendent of Public Works to have the plantations kept in order, and to improve the general aspect of the gardens by having a few roads made and some beds laid out alongside the river banks.

Water Supply.

The lower parts of the Botanic Station have been already supplied with basins fed by pipes running from springs which have been banked in. In the course of 1903 a reservoir will be built by the Public Works Department to increase the water supply of the Hospital, and this reservoir will be placed close to the Botanic Station, so that the gardens and the laboratory will at the same time have their share in the new water supply. This reservoir will be a great boon to the Botanic Station, as part of the labour force, generally occupied in watering the plants, will be applied to other works.

II.—LABORATORY.

The Botanic Station is supplied at present with the most necessary appliances and chemicals for analyses of manures. A sum of Rs. 1,800 has been provided in the Estimates for 1903 for the improvement of the laboratory in the way of conducting

analyses of soils and of agricultural products, and an equal amount has been voted by the Local Board of Health, Central District, to enable the Botanic Station to carry on also analyses of the most important articles of food.

Phosphatic Guano.

The following are the results of analysis of samples of guano forwarded during the year:—

Number.	Phosphoric Acid (per cent.).	Remarks.
1	9·20	dusty.
2	20·32	"
3	19·17	"
4	16·22	"
5	26·19	"
6	26·11	rocks.
7	25·86	"
8	19·17	dusty.
9	19·48	"
10	25·14	"

Steps are being taken in Seychelles to export to Colombo this guano, which is already exported to South Africa, Mauritius, and Europe. In all the East there are no deposits of guano except on Christmas Island, which is far off to the S.E. of Java and out of the way. There is no doubt that the planters of Ceylon can secure phosphatic guano in Seychelles at a much lower price than that at which the ordinary phosphates are sold in Colombo.

Cocoanuts.

At the end of 1901, samples of Seychelles cocoanuts were forwarded for anlysis to the Director of the Agronomic Station of Mauritius, who some months after kindly forwarded the following statement of their analysis:—

—	Nicobar Nut.	Anjouan Nut.	Big Seychelles.	Small Seychelles.
	Grammes.	Grammes.	Grammes.	Grammes.
Kernel in one nut	445	418	382	214
Oil in Kernel (per cent.) ...	41·34	40·96	42·30	44·09
Coprah in one nut	308	287	264	148
Oil in Coprah (per cent.) ...	61·3	60·8	62·8	65·4
Oil in one nut	184	171	161	94
Shell in one nut	210	175	137	108

Having noticed lately on an estate a few Ceylon cocoanut trees growing amongst ordinary Seychelles plants, I was able to make the following comparative statement:—

—	Ceylon Nut.	Big Seychelles.	Medium Seychelles.	Small Seychelles.
	Kilogrammes.			
Weight	0·590	0·460	0·391	0·235
Kernel per 100 nuts ...	34·0	27·5	19·2	12·9
Shell „ „ ...	18·0	16·3	11·3	8·3

The average weight and composition of Seychelles nuts as compared with those of Ceylon (the figures for which are taken from Mr. Ferguson's "All about Cocoanuts"), may be given as follows:—

Seychelles Nuts.				Ceylon Nuts.			
Weight.				Weight.			
1·180 ...	Husk ...	0·769		1·500	Husk ...	0·625	
	Water or milk.	0·055	0·411		Water or milk.	0·250	0·825
	Shell ...	0·120			Shell ...	0·141	
	Kernel	0·236			Kernel	0·434	
	Total...	1·180			Total...	1·500	

All these figures go to show that the smaller the nuts the greater the percentage of kernel they contain, and the bigger the nuts the greater the yield both in the fields and in the mill. For example:—100 Seychelles (medium) contain 19·2 kilos. of kernel, and 100 Ceylon nuts, cultivated in Seychelles, contain 34 kilos., *i.e.*, nearly twice as much. In Seychelles, many people prefer small nuts because 100 kilos. of coprah from these nuts give more oil (2 or 3 bottles) than 100 kilos. of coprah from the common bigger nuts, called Anjouan, Nicobar, or Leo, which are not industrial varieties. It is to be regretted that there is a confusion between foreign varieties of nuts grown in Seychelles, and also between the amount of oil which is got from 100 kilos. of coprah, and the weight of coprah obtained from 100 nuts of different varieties. The question is, how much oil 100 nuts, and not 100 kilos. of coprah, will give when the extraction is made from different kinds of nuts?

It will be found that Ceylon nuts are nothing else than improved varieties of Seychelles nuts. In Ceylon the shape of the nut is observed when plants are selected from the nursery, and all oblong nuts are rejected in consideration of the geometrical difference between the sphere and the ellipse. In

Seychelles over 95 per cent. are oblong nuts, and the proportion of husk is far greater than in Ceylon nuts.

Leguminous Plants.

Having been asked to supply, at the end of 1901, to the Agronomic Station of Mauritius the Seychelles wild leguminous plants, I forwarded to Mr. Bonâme samples of Boëme (Dolichos Catjang) and Haricot d'Espagne (Phaseolus lunatus), with the request that the results of analysis should be communicated to me. The following are the figures that I have already received:—

(A.) Boëme.

—	Natural State.	Dry State.		
		Hay.	Seeds.	Husks.
Water	87·10	11·70	12·70	11·90
Ash	1·24	8·50	3·56	2·54
Cellulose	4·59	31·40	3·50	51·90
Fat	0·41	2·30	4·28	5·06
Non-nitrogenous matters	5·00	34·23	55·96	24·17
Nitrogenous matters	1·66	11·37	20·00	4·43
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Nutrient ratio ... ... $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3{\cdot}3}$, $\frac{1}{1{\cdot}5}$

Pods contain 31 per cent. of husks.
" " 69 " seeds.

(B.) Haricot d'Espagne.

—	Natural State.	Dry State.		
		Hay.	Seeds.	Husks.
Water	84·50	10·80	12·70	7·50
Ash	1·48	8·54	3·40	4·20
Cellulose	5·63	32·40	4·75	37·50
Fat	0·37	2·10	1·20	0·70
Non-nitrogenous matters	4·91	28·23	62·52	46·54
Nitrogenous matters	3·11	17·93	15·43	3·56
	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Nutrient ratio ... ... $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{2{\cdot}4}$, $\frac{1}{0{\cdot}7}$.

Pods contain husks 37·50.
" " seeds 62·50.

It is interesting to note that these leguminous plants, and especially Dolichus Catjang, have a very high nutrient ratio, and that when employed in the form of hay they compare favourably with poonac as food for animals. Their cultivation should be extended in cocoanut plantations, as, besides their value as fodder plants, they are the best weeds to be employed for green manuring on account of their having the property of imparting atmospheric nitrogen to the soil.

III.—PROGRESS OF PLANTS INTRODUCED AND PROPAGATED.

Albizzia.

This Malayan tree has been employed at the Botanic Station as a shade-tree for coffee, cocoa, cola, and nutmeg cultivations. Its growth is very quick, some specimens having reached 40 feet high in 18 months. It is the custom in Java and Sumatra to plant this shade-tree, or else the Indian lilac (Melia Azedarach), in coffee plantations to prevent specific diseases which prevail when the cultivated plants are fully exposed to the sun.

Araucaria.

A few Bunga nuts (Araucaria Bidwilli) received from Australia have germinated and are growing well. This handsome tree deserves a good place in all gardens of Mahé.

Artichoke.

The globe artichoke does not flower in Mahé, at least on the sea-shore. The Jerusalem artichoke grows remarkably well all the year round, and the roots can be obtained three months after planting. The same beds, being self-sown from tubers left in the soil, will produce year after year provided they are manured every six months.

Asparagus.

Seeds of this plant germinate easily. In the second year of its growth, it should be earthed up to a great height so as to get good stems.

Caladium.

These handsome foliage plants are in great demand at the Botanic Station, where a good collection can be procured at 10c. a piece.

Canna.

This plant grows with profusion in Seychelles on the seashore. It should be more cultivated than it is at present, especially in beds or clumps where self-crossing is certain, producing astonishing results. Seeds grow easily when soaked a few days in water.

Camphor.

This valuable plant has been introduced this year from Mauritius and Ceylon. It is making good growth even on the sea-shore, and is to be recommended as an economic plant in such places as Seychelles, where, owing to the climate, the annual leaf production is enormous. Planted in hedges or bushes, 6 feet apart, camphor trees can give good returns by plucking young twigs and leaves which yield by distillation 1 per cent. camphor, and nearly 2 cwts. per acre. A cwt. of crude camphor produced in Ceylon has been estimated at Rs. 126.

Cardamoms.

The Mysore and Malabar varieties have been successfully introduced from Ceylon, and seedlings are at present being distributed to planters. This plant should grow easily in the sheltered and shaded valleys that are so numerous on the highlands of Seychelles. The Malabar variety would very likely succeed even on the seashore. The process employed in drying this spice is so similar to that of vanilla curing, that the cultivation of both plants could be easily carried on by the same planters.

Cassava.

The best varieties from Penang and Wellesley Province have been introduced and planted at the Botanic Station for ultimate distribution.

Cedar.

Seychelles cedar is Casuarina equisetifolia. Seedlings are in great demand at the Botanic Station where they are sold for R. 1 a hundred. There is no plant better adapted to poor sandy soils, both as a timber tree and to serve as props for vanilla cultivation. A piece of land at the Botanic Station, planted in March, 1902, contains specimens of 25 and 30 feet high, growing 5 feet apart. The rapidity of its growth makes the cultivation of this tree profitable, young trees, two years old, reaching 25c. when sold as rafters on the market. Planters complain of not always succeeding in their sowings. A good method is to gather the fruits a few days before the opening of the capsules, and to sow the seeds, out of the reach of ants, in cases placed on wooden stands in a pond or basin.

CHERIMOYER.

The cherimoyer is said to grow in Ceylon and the East at only 3,000 feet altitude and upwards. It is interesting to note that it bears fruit in Seychelles on the sea-shore in well-sheltered valleys, and that some specimens are even doing well in the poor soils of the Botanic Station. Plants shaded by plantain trees do much better and are less attacked by scale insects than plants fully exposed to the sun. The same remark applies to nearly all fruit trees with which I am experimenting.

CITRONELLA.

The citronella and lemon grass of Ceylon have been introduced successfully. The soil and climate of Seychelles are well suited for the cultivation of these plants.

CLOVE.

The clove industry is at present practically abandoned in Seychelles, owing to the scarcity of labour and to the irregularity of the crops. When over-production will cease to make the cultivation of vanilla as profitable as it is at the present time, I see no reason why the clove industry should not be taken up again. Although I do not think that the Seychelles trees are different from those of the Moluccas, I have thought it advisable to bring back from the East two plants grown in Singapore. When labour will not be so scarce, clove planters should not forget to manure their trees to make regular crops certain.

COCOA.

The canker disease is prevailing in Seychelles, the only variety cultivated being the Criollo (Caracas). Many plantations have been destroyed, and the planters are under the impression that this valuable plant cannot be cultivated again. The disease can be treated by shaving the trees, exposing the cankered area containing the fungus (Nectria) to the sunlight, and by cutting out as much as possible of the cankered material. A man can shave from 40 to 50 trees a day. When trees are too far gone, they should be cut down and allowed to grow again from side shoots. When the pods are also attacked they blacken at one end, sometimes at both ends. Their shells should be burnt but the beans should be preserved and cured.

In spite of this disease a few planters are going in for new varieties, and this year plants of the best Ceylon Forastero and Puerto Cabello, which withstand the disease more easily, have been distributed.

Coca.

A few cuttings of coca received from Mauritius have made very quick growth, and have borne fruits at the end of the first year. Seedlings grow easily, and besides their commercial utility they are very ornamental as trees. The big leaf variety has been introduced this year from Ceylon.

Cocoanuts.

Different new varieties have been distributed this year, and varieties from Ceylon, Siam, and Java have been planted at Government House for future propagation and ultimate distribution.

Coprah has been exported during the year, with success, to Europe. It is to be hoped that consignments will also be sent to Colombo, the price of locally-made oil going down every day and reaching only R. 1 30c. a velt of 10 bottles, or Rs. 193 a ton, *i.e.*, just half the price of Ceylon oil.

Cola.

Four specimens of cola trees have been discovered in the bush at Government House. They seem to be 4 or 5 years old, and have not borne fruit yet. Another specimen at Anse Etoile is a huge tree which has fruited only occasionally. Some persons have concluded already that cola cannot be grown in Seychelles, judging from the results obtained from this single specimen. Much more time and a regular cultivation are necessary to judge the value of an economic plant, and I am glad to note that two planters have received seeds from Europe and are actively planting their estates. In Ceylon where I was able to secure a few pods, I have seen better plantations at 1,500 feet altitude than on the sea-shore. Seedlings have been distributed from the Botanic Station this year. Great care should be taken by the planters who are going in for the cultivation of this plant, to secure the best varieties of the West African Coast, where Cola vera is said to be superior to the Cola acuminata.

Coffee.

Coffea stenophylla (purple berry) and Coffea arabica from Java and the Straits have been distributed and planted at the Botanic Station for propagation. I am sure that coffee cultivation would prove profitable in Seychelles with the better labourers that can be introduced.

Divi-divi (*Cæsalpinia coriaria*).

The plants at the Botanic Station are making good growth. They will probably fruit this year. I have seen successful plantations under the shade of cocoanut trees in Ceylon.

Fruit Trees.

The following is a list of the fruit trees that have been introduced and distributed:—

Cocoanuts.
Cocoa.
Cola.
Nutmegs.
Oranges.
Mangoes.
Avocado pear.
Mangosteen.
Durian.
Sapodilla plum.
Coco plum.
Lovi-Lovi.
Rambutan.
Fig.
Lansat.
Duks.
Litchi.

Most of these fruits could be turned into preserves or dried in special machines. I understand that one of these machines has been introduced lately and is showing good results.

Plantain.

Many industrial plants, such as cola, coffee, cocoa, &c., will take advantage of the shade of plantain trees when they are young. The products of these plantains are sold very easily in Seychelles, especially to the Ashanti political prisoners from West Africa.

Pineapples.

A very handsome contribution of pineapples was received from Jamaica, and the following varieties are all doing well at the Botanic Station:—

La Brea pines,
White Dominica,
Bull-head,
Maipuri,
Queen,
Black Antigua,
} from Jamaica.

Queen, from Penang.
Kew, from Ceylon.

The Smooth Cayenne (Maingard) and Victoria planted last year and manured with Seychelles phosphatic guano have produced plants and fruits of the highest standard. The time has come in Seychelles to make pineapple preserves or to export the fruits to Aden, South Africa, and Mauritius.

A consignment of oranges and pineapples was sent to London in the course of the year by the Messageries Line. In spite of a voyage of 33 days and a great number of shiftings, some specimens of both fruits, though packed without the necessary materials, arrived in good condition. The pineapples were found beautiful, though not of good colour, being a brown

instead of golden coloured, and the oranges tasted a little bit sour. The results obtained show that, without better shipping facilities, Seychelles fruits cannot be exported to London. There is, however, a good market for them in Mauritius, where the climate is different and the fruits of other kinds.

Fig.

A fig tree received from Europe fruited at the end of the first year, and other cuttings have been introduced from Ceylon. This fruit tree requires full exposure to the sun and shelter from the wind. A caterpillar lives in the pith of the young twigs.

Ginger.

West Indian ginger has been successfully cultivated at the Botanic Station, and I understand that a planter is going in for this valuable product this year.

Para Grass (*Panicum molle*).

This valuable fodder plant has been introduced from Ceylon, and many shoots have already been distributed at 10c. a piece. A crop can be obtained every 6 weeks in the wet soils of Mahé, and the grass is excellent as fodder for horses.

Parkia.

This magnificent shade tree has reached in 18 months 40 feet in height at the Botanic Station. It gives ornamental flowers and edible seeds. The stems, though very slender when the trees are young, resist the heavy winds much better than the Albizzia.

Nutmeg.

A consignment of plants from Penang, Java, and Ceylon has reached Seychelles safely. The Colony is now provided with the best varieties of this plant, and, as the laterite of Seychelles is suitable to its cultivation, and as the best manures for it, *i.e.*, fish manure and guano, are easily available, it is advisable that some planters should go in for the cultivation of this spice tree.

Sisal.

Sisal plants, introduced from Mauritius, are making good growth, and shoots are already available for distribution at the Botanic Station. I have to note with much regret that cases of the same plants, forwarded to Seychelles from the Bahamas, were destroyed by fire on the Steamship "Charente" on the 17th July last in the harbour of Marseilles.

Tobacco.

Seeds of the best tobacco available in Ceylon and the East can be procured at the Botanic Station. On some guano islands I have noticed a wonderful growth of tobacco plants, as much as three crops having been obtained from November to April from the same seedlings.

Rubber.

A good contribution of Para rubber seeds was sent by me whilst in Ceylon in September last. A tin of 2,000 freshly gathered seeds, dipped in a solution of copper sulphate for the destruction of fungi, and sprinkled with crystals of naphthaline, arrived in such good condition that not less than 1,700 plants were distributed and sold at 10c. a piece two months later. These seedlings are growing well everywhere in Seychelles, and it seems that there is no plant that is better adapted to the climate, soil, and labour supply of this Colony. The seeds are easily available in Ceylon, where planting an acre does not cost more than Rs. 7. All valleys, ravines, river banks, and especially the numerous marshy lands, which amount to several thousands of acres in all the Seychelles Islands, should be planted without delay.

The price of Para rubber is rising every day, reaching 4*s.* 4*d.* in Ceylon, whilst the cost of tapping is as low as 45c. in that Colony, where an acre produces 200 pounds at least.

Castilloa rubber.—Seeds were sent twice by me from Ceylon, but both consignments mis-carried and reached Seychelles only four months after the date of shipping. Only a few seeds brought by me on my return from the East have succeeded and are now being distributed. A few plants bedded out at the Botanic Station, on Capucin Crown land, and on some private estates, are doing very well.

West African rubber (Funtumia elastica) and Assam rubber (Ficus elastica) have also been introduced, the former from the Gold Coast and the latter from Java.

Gutta Percha.

Seeds and plants of the following varieties of gutta-percha have been successfully introduced:—

1. Palaqium Gutta (best variety).
2. Dichopsis obovata.
3. Palaqium Treubii.
4. Payenia Leerii.

The plants have stood the long transit from Java very well, and some of them have been distributed already.

Vanilla.

An attempt has been made at the Botanic Station this year to grow vanilla from seeds, with the object of studying the different organs of the orchid from the embryonic stage upwards, and of introducing new blood amongst the plants of Seychelles, which all issue from a single vine sent to Bourbon by the Natural History Museum of Paris 50 years ago. Fully ripe pods were allowed to blacken, and the seeds when removed were soaked in 50 per cent. of alcohol during 24 hours, and shortly afterwards washed thoroughly. The seedlings obtained are growing well, and cuttings from them will be planted this year. I do not think that the cuttings will take longer to bear if they are placed in the same conditions as ordinary cuttings of the same size and length.

Experiments on the manuring of vanilla will be started next year as a special vote will probably be provided for that purpose in the Estimates for 1904. At the Botanic Station, a cedar plantation, in which a special grass (Stenotaphrum Complanatum) has been sown, will be planted with vanilla cuttings at the end of 1903.

Yams.

A collection of Japanese yams have been introduced this year, and they are doing well. This plant is represented by some wild specimens growing alongside roads everywhere in Mahé (Cambare Marron).

R. Dupont,
Curator.

Botanic Station,
24th June, 1903.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 431.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 395.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1904.

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No. 431.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1902 *see* No. 395.)

GOVERNOR DAVIDSON to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Seychelles,
August 7, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Blue Book of Seychelles for 1903.

The Blue Book itself has been compiled, and copies will be transmitted to you as soon as it is printed.

2. Annexed to my report is one by Mr. R. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Station.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

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REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1903 amounted to Rs.467,668.13, and exceeded the estimates for the year by Rs.454.88 and the actual receipts of 1902 by Rs.30,202.36.

2. The expenditure of the Colony in 1903 was Rs.516,331.31, and exceeded the estimates for the year by Rs.62,289.48 and the actual expenditure of 1902—including the expenditure from loan funds—by Rs.6,133.61. If the expenditure from loan funds in 1902 is excluded, then the total excess of expenditure in 1903 over 1902 is Rs.18,951.64.

The total expenditure of the Colony in 1903 exceeded the total revenue by Rs.48,663.18, and the deficit has been met by drawing on the accumulated surplus balances of previous years.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1899	362,791	268,907
1900	399,311	351,919
1901	486,323	401,521
1902	437,465	497,479
1903	467,668	516,331

4. The revenue and expenditure of the Local Boards of Health established for the Central District (town of Victoria), for the South Mahé District and the islands of Praslin and La Digue are now included in the general statements of revenue and expenditure. In terms of Ordinance, No. 32 of 1902, the Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. These Boards, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance, No. 31 of 1900, are composed of a number of the most prominent persons, unofficial and official, whose interests are identified with those of the respective districts, under nomination by the Governor. Large powers of self-government entrusted to them have been wisely and

satisfactorily used. The votes allocated for local purposes in the estimates for 1903 are as follows:—

—	Amount.
	Rs.
Central District	36,000
South Mahé	5,800
Praslin	3,500
La Digue	2,500
Total	47,800

The Boards for South Mahé and Praslin exceeded the provision assigned to them, but considerable economies were effected in the other two, and the total working for the year shows a saving of Rs.7,330.

Details of Revenue, 1902 *and* 1903.

5. The details of revenue for the years 1902 and 1903 are given in the following table:—

Heads of Receipts.	1902.	1903.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	207,488 45	230,224 98
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	3,572 39	3,063 12
3. Licenses, &c.	56,837 03	53,927 06
4. Taxes	64,885 43	67,181 91
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	28,578 09	31,640 90
6. Post Office	29,760 52	35,183 42
7. Rents of Government Property	17,291 58	15,212 30
8. Interest	8,715 36	10,294 98
9. Miscellaneous	20,336 42	20,939 46
Total	437,465 77	467,668 13

6. The receipts from Customs show a substantial increase of Rs.22,736 over the preceding year, but were .Rs.33,178 below the figures for 1901, while corresponding very closely to those for 1900 and for 1899. The Customs receipts indicate generally the actual purchasing power of the community and depend upon the results of the harvest of agricultural produce in the preceding year and the value of the advances made against the current crops. The shrinkage of Rs.509 in pilotage and harbour dues, some fourteen per cent. of the whole, indicates the real source of the difficulties under which this Colony labours in its agricultural development, the difficulty in obtaining shipment of produce to its markets and the

irregularity of calls, especially of ships which will carry produce to the Bombay market. The advance under the head fees of Court (Rs.3,062) shows that the people have means for litigation: this head of service and the Post Office (increase Rs.5,423) are the best indicators that there were accumulated savings in the Colony, and that the cultivators and traders had reserves despite the collapse in the prices realised by the vanilla crop.

Details of Expenditure, 1902 *and* 1903.

7. The following table gives the details of the Expenditure in 1902 and 1903:—

Heads of Service.	1902.		1903.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	25	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	16,038	20	13,613	11
3. Governor and Legislature	24,413	24	23,972	60
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	19,345	06	18,735	95
5. Audit Department	4,437	80	4,708	85
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	28,808	39	34,059	91
7. Legal Department	34,856	67	38,616	83
8. Police Department	37,670	70	40,556	97
9. Prison	11,990	59	11,637	79
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	30,986	98	31,020	81
11. Ecclesiastical Department	10,012	72	10,105	96
12. Education Department	23,697	05	29,183	89
13. Printing Department...	8,288	46	4,441	90
14. Post Office Department	8,897	54	14,064	12
15. Transport	1,761	53	747	10
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department.	7,249	24	16,131	53
17. Local Board, Central District	31,650	58	28,274	20
18. do. South Mahé	3,516	33	6,113	17
19. do. Praslin	3,204	32	4,430	41
20. do. La Digue	1,650	18	1,652	68
21. Exchange and cost of Remittances... ...	3,702	39	4,738	88
22. Miscellaneous	21,620	31	15,192	32
23. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	44,703	83	44,550	00
24. Public Works Department	14,649	28	14,405	02
25. do. Recurrent	27,689	60	25,798	30
26. do. Extraordinary	61,722	42	64,762	76
Total	497,479	72	516,331	31

8. The principal variations in the foregoing comparative table are explained as follows:—

Under pensions, the decrease is chiefly due to certain pensions for 1903 having been paid in 1904. The Port Department is now charged with the cost of equipment and maintenance of the Government steam launch which has cost

Rs.5,800 in the year under review, against which may be set its earnings for conveyance of passengers and for towage, which reduce the amount below Rs.4,000. The increase in the vote for the Legal Department is accounted for by an increase in the salary of the Chief Justice (from Rs.8,000 to Rs.9,000) and of the Registrar (from Rs.4,000 to Rs.4,500) and to the cost of the passages of Mr. S. H. Kelly, lately Legal Adviser, and of Mr. A. K. Young his successor. The increase in the Police Department is due to the purchase of a boat for the service of the Harbour Police and to the additions to the salaries of the force sanctioned in 1902.

The vote for the Education Department is increased owing to the cost of the passage to Seychelles of a new second master of the Victoria School and his salary, and to the equipment of the laboratory and technical branch of the Victoria School. The cost of a new printing machine stood against the accounts of the printing office in 1902; this exceptional charge did not recur in 1903. The increased cost of the botanic station is explained by the expenses incurred in the mission of the Curator to Ceylon and the Straits Settlements in order to study improved methods of tropical agriculture. The account is also swollen by the transfer from Vote 24 of the salaries of the Forest Ranger and the labourers on the Crown lands. The increase in the cost of remittances is due to the freight and insurance paid on a remittance from India of Rs.50,000 in specie.

The decrease under the vote "Miscellaneous" is due to the abandonment of the policy of giving rewards for the destruction of rats as a precaution against the introduction of plague.

9. The following table shows the assets and liabilities of the Colony from 1896 to 1903:—

Year	Amount.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	
1896	15,488 01	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
1897	2,017 04	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
1898	67,436 73	" "
1899	126,426 26	" "
1900	236,513 85	" "
1901	339,762 22	" "
1902	288,323 24	" "
1903	224,910 40	" "

The Treasury balances and investments in Government securities represent a liquid reserve of Rs.324,635; advances due by the Governments of the Gold Coast, the Uganda Protectorate and Mauritius, together with the value of a remittance in transit to the Crown Agents and some minor items

represent a further sum of Rs.30,717, making an aggregate of Rs.355,352.

The Colonial liabilities are limited to sums due to the Crown Agents (Rs.38,717); to the Government of Mauritius (Rs.24,161); to deposits in the Government Savings Bank (Rs.58,067) and to some miscellaneous items of account, aggregating to Rs.130,442.

My predecessor, with the cordial support of his Councils and of the public, has been drawing on the reserves accumulated in a prosperous cycle to carry out a number of permanent improvements in buildings and communications by land or sea, most of which appear under the heads of Public Works Extraordinary, Port and Marine Department and Local Boards. These items of extraordinary expenditure amount to one fourth of the revenue during the last three years and have conferred great benefits on the inhabitants of Mahé and the neighbouring islands.

Taken in conjunction with the judicious investment of the loan of Rs.300,000 obtained under the Colonial Loans Act, 1899, which was expended on the construction of excellent roads, the favourable opportunities have been fully and wisely taken for improving the material condition of the administration and of the people.

If the current year should show a falling revenue and be the precursor of less fortunate seasons, heralding a period in which the Colony's resources must be carefully husbanded, the advantage accruing to the planters in developing their access to the markets and to the sea will materially assist them in the future.

10. The public debt, which consists of the loan of £20,000 (Rs.300,000), is repayable with interest at 2½ per cent. in thirty annual instalments of £987 15*s.* (Rs.14,816.25), of which four have now been paid.

The market value on the 31st December, 1903, of the investments of the Government balances was £17,145 7*s.* 11*d.* (Rs.257,180), held in Colonial or Corporation stock. The face value of the stock, yielding a fraction over 3 per cent. interest, is £18,842 8*s.* 1*d.*, purchased for £18,168 18*s.* 1*d.*

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES.

A. Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table are given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports without specie	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1899	984,666	1,041,890	1,853,362	1,897,662
1900	980,911	1,000,911	1,036,161	1,052,211
1901	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245
1902	861,159	943,819	1,094,268	1,237,405
1903	966,641	1,024,641	825,525	968,325

Imports.

12. The declared value in 1903 of imports was Rs.966,641, exclusive of specie which was imported to the value of Rs.58,000. The total exceeds that of 1902 by over Rs.100,000, but is about on a par with the average of the preceding five years. The highest figures recorded appear in the returns for 1901, when goods to the value of Rs1,149,646 were imported, besides specie to the amount of Rs.61,000.

Excluding specie which was drawn from Mauritius and from British India, the goods imported were derived from the following sources:—United Kingdom, Rs.275,462, or 28 per cent.; British possessions, Rs.459,587, or 48 per cent.; and from foreign countries, Rs. 231,593, or 24 per cent. Rather more than one-half of the total, or Rs.497,309, was imported through the Suez Canal.

13. The following comparative table indicates the movements in trade, as regards imports, with the United Kingdom, British possessions and foreign countries, the last being practically limited to France and French dependencies: (imports of specie are excluded from this table):—

Country.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
United Kingdom...	309,041	275,462	—	33,579
India	218,205	316,787	98,582	—
Mauritius	122,893	110,813	—	12,080
Aden	8,617	19,755	11,138	—

Imports.—cont.

Country.	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs	Rs.	Rs.
Zanzibar	9,970	6,179	—	3,791
Ceylon and Straits	—	6,052	6,052	—
Jamaica	52	—	—	52
France	188,401	219,227	30,826	—
Réunion	3,556	5,762	2,206	—
Madagascar	424	3,683	3,259	—
Germany	—	2,587	2,587	—
Delagoa Bay	—	300	300	—
Switzerland	—	34	34	—
Total	861,159	966,641	154,984	49,502

The falling off in the volume of imports from the United Kingdom is most marked in cotton goods, the value of which has fallen from Rs.118,534 to Rs.64,057; nor is this decrease compensated for by an increase in imports from other sources: this decrease may be looked upon as indicating a reduced capacity of the labouring classes to spend money.

There is a falling off, too, in the importation of haberdashery and millinery from the United Kingdom (Rs.5,239), but this decrease is more than compensated for in increases from France (Rs.6,263), Mauritius (Rs.4,750) and India (Rs.1,665). The only items showing any substantial increase are coal (Rs.33,750), and iron goods (Rs.21,823): the remaining items generally show slight diminution.

The bulk of the increase in imports is due to the increase in the importation of rice, Rs.76,822: there is also a substantial increase under the heads flour, coals, soap and sugar.

From Mauritius, the principal fluctuations are represented by an increase in the value of rice (Rs.18,980), in sugar (Rs.6,080) and haberdashery (Rs.4,750); with a decrease in rum (Rs.9,374), flour (Rs.6,242) and in a number of lesser items.

Under the recent convention with France, articles de mode and French wines are allowed into this Colony at a reduced duty in reciprocity for the admission of the Colonial produce of Seychelles into France at the minimum tariff for foreign products (that is to say, twice the duty levied on similar products from French Colonies). In consequence of the lower rate imports of French wines and spirits have increased by Rs.16,807, articles de mode by Rs.11,502, haberdashery by Rs.6,263 and iron goods by Rs.5,405: while there is decrease in cotton goods by Rs.15,950.

The imports from other sources are not worth comment.

Comparative Table of Principal Imports, 1902 *and* 1903.

14. The following table gives a comparative statement of the principal articles imported in 1902 and 1903 and the countries of origin:—

Articles.	United Kingdom.		India.		Mauritius.		France.		Zanzibar.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coal	—	33,750	—	2,833	—	—	--	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	5,647	3,317	537	—	—	—	—	—
Cotton goods	118,534	64,057	21,874	13,703	1,675	19	3,977	15,027	—	—
Flour	—	—	16,419	20,835	6,242	—	1,462	1	—	2,285
Haberdashery and millinery	24,082	18,843	5,528	7,193	2,543	7,293	25,732	31,995	—	7
Iron goods	19,332	41,155	2,272	551	2,425	1,898	9,563	14,968	—	410
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	6,669	5,631	738	483	101	34	1,948	3,685	—	—
Leather boots and shoes	5,494	3,831	405	601	209	79	2,231	6,002	—	—
Provisions	14,357	8,612	792	1,063	2,030	1,691	5,089	4,072	220	9
Rice	—	—	167,667	224,489	3,500	22,480	—	—	4,765	—
Soap	672	1,944	883	3,377	—	—	812	506	—	—
Spirits of all kinds	9,225	13,245	670	6	20,829	11,455	12,490	17,788	—	—
Sugar	—	—	282	2,698	35,330	41,410	—	—	—	—
Wine of all kinds	277	—	—	—	570	46	47,806	59,315	—	—

Exports.

15. The declared value in 1903 of exports was Rs.825,525, exclusive of specie which was exported to the amount of Rs.140,800. These figures are the lowest since 1895, when the cultivation of vanilla was on a much smaller scale and when the volume exported amounted to only 4,553 kilos. declared at Rs.60,335.

16. As vanilla is still, in value, much the most important article of cultivation for export, the subjoined table has been prepared with a special view to illustrating the risks which attend the cultivation of tropical products for which there is only a limited market. The figures display the extreme variation in price due to an expansion in demand which had not been foreseen by the cultivators and enabled them to gather enormous prices for a short time, followed by the reaction when manufacturers found the price too high and had recourse to substitutes for vanilla. Then follows the over production in Seychelles, Comores and Réunion under the influence of abnormally high prices. The last stage is that of disaster which accompanies an artificial period of prosperity and a high standard of living, with a tendency to resume the cultivation and development of subsidiary products, neglected during the "boom."

Year.	Total Value of exports (excluding specie).	Quantity of vanilla exported.	Declared value of vanilla.	Average price per kilo of vanilla.
	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs. cts.
1894	764,080	24,444	293,328	12 00
1895	525,350	4,553	60,344	13 25
1896	1,535,895	31,227	936,000	14 85
1897	1,503,701	30,691	921,065	15 05
1898	1,278,382	25,177	748,810	29 74
1899	1,853,362	41,835	1,338,720	32 00
1900	1,036,161	17,569	580,877	33 06
1901	1,417,515	71,899	1,108.792	15 42
1902	1,094,268	60,862	642,330	10 55
1903	825,525	59,784	503,994	8 50

Several results followed in natural sequence from the abnormal rise in values during 1898. The area under cultivation in Seychelles was at once doubled and the cultivation of cocoanuts, coffee, cacao, cloves and pepper was neglected. The failure of the crop in 1900 sustained the inflated price, until in the following year the market was glutted by the large harvest in 1901 and the simultaneous development of the cultivation of vanilla in other tropical islands wherever it could be grown. At the same time, the laboratories of Europe were at

work to discover some substitute for a natural product which had become so greatly enhanced in value: a substitute named "vanillin" was the outcome of the researches, said to be capable of production at one twentieth of the price of vanilla, and alleged to contain the same chemical properties and to be capable of use in all the industries for which vanilla was employed, except in the properties required in the silk dyeing industry.

The planters of the Seychelles were consequently faced with an over-stocked market, a falling off in demand, and a collapse from fancy prices of 1898-1900. The price continued to fall until the market had adjusted itself to absorb the increased supplies, and the margin of profit to the cultivator has fallen to a figure which gives a very moderate return on the capital invested and the cost of production and preparation for the market. Nevertheless, although the results of the year's trading under review were depressing in the extreme, the markets are now relieved of their surplus stock: the collapse in prices has checked further extensions of the area of production, and the prices have since risen to a figure more nearly corresponding to that which ruled in 1901 and in the years preceding 1898. But, unfortunately for the planters of the Seychelles, an abnormal period of drought in 1904 has reduced both the quantity and quality of the harvest, and the vines are likely to feel the evil effects for another year or two: so the revival in prices may not have a full effect for the time in restoring the financial position of the agricultural industry. The lesson taught by the collapse of the vanilla industry will not be without its uses. Planters of tropical products are always hopeful and believe that the highest prices are to be the normal prices, and, therefore, cling on, in the face of adverse years, in the hope that the golden years will return. Yet the long continuance of the depression has led them to turn their attention to other products which have been neglected and which will repay cultivation with moderate profits. There are many such products in the Seychelles and it is probable that, with the introduction of new capital, the adoption of new methods, and an improved stock, the cultivation of the cocoanut, of cacao and of coffee may revive and be a source of renewed prosperity.

Comparative Table of principal Exports, 1902 *and* 1903.

17. The declared value at the Customs of the principal exports in 1902 and 1903 and of the countries to which Colonial produce was exported is shown in the following table:—

Country.	Cacao.		Cocoanuts.		Cocoanut Oil.		Coprah.		Guano.		Salt Fish.		Soap.		Tortoise-shell.		Vanilla.	
	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.
United Kingdom ..	Rs. 1,209	Rs. 947	Rs. —	Rs. 30	Rs. —	Rs. 1,293	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 16,934	Rs. 9,640	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 9,275	Rs. 13,166	Rs. 356,616	Rs. 322,655
France	1,444	842	—	624	—	780	—	5,078	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,151	4,290	284,994	180,938
Mauritius	—	—	11,798	13,998	139,890	101,244	—	—	53,170	8,802	1,492	906	40	200	—	—	—	—
India	—	—	5,319	7,085	42,835	10,733	—	200	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zanzibar	—	—	2,125	1,207	4,528	8,671	—	271	—	—	441	10	43,466	46,015	—	—	—	—
Madagascar	—	—	2,730	392	37,751	19,296	—	—	—	—	—	224	2,394	10,446	—	—	—	—
Aden	—	—	1,639	2,378	8,394	10,373	—	120	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	350	—	—
Réunion	—	—	1,122	1,573	8,344	6,600	—	—	2,130	—	3,824	2,530	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colombo	—	—	—	557	—	1,983	—	213	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Comparative Table of Exports to Principal Countries, 1899 to 1903.

18. Subjoined is a table showing the immediate destination as cleared from Seychelles and the declared values at the Customs of exports for five years (including specie):—

Country.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	907,142	437,756	537,135	393,353	350,565
France	472,314	173,124	563,902	294,094	192,900
Mauritius ...	107,919	177,843	205,266	251,527	224,547
India	271,997	110,121	78,354	98,858	47,355
Zanzibar ...	31,564	37,284	24,990	51,480	66,913
Madagascar ...	304	580	29,225	43,396	30,732
Other countries	106,422	115,503	44,373	101,697	53,313
Total ...	1,897,662	1,052,211	1,483,245	1,237,405	968,325

The foregoing table has to be accepted with the reservation that the destination to which goods are shipped from Seychelles is affected considerably by the difficulties in getting transport; for instance, communication with Mauritius is frequent and regular, therefore, goods are shipped to that market in great measure for re-export because of the difficulty at present in reaching the market of Bombay. Were there a regular line of steamers calling at Mahé for the ports of Bombay, Colombo, or the East Coast of Africa, not only will the direct trade increase in proportion, but an inducement would offer, with the access to a larger market, to export larger proportion of the produce of the islands which at present remains wasted and unharvested.

Exports to United Kingdom.

19. The quantity of vanilla cleared for London in 1903 was 37,402 kilos., valued at Rs.322,656; in 1902 the quantity was 32,886 kilos., valued at Rs.356,616; the quantity being larger, but the value less by over Rs.34,000, owing to the fall in values on that market, which throughout the year ruled lower than the market in Paris. The tonnage of guano fell from 1,799 tons (Rs.16,934) to 964 tons (Rs.9,640); the deposits of guano are now being exhausted. The quantity of tortoiseshell increased from 438 killos. (Rs.9,275) to 812 kilos. (Rs.13,167).

The value of calipi fell from Rs.3,000 to Rs.803.

Cacao represented only Rs.947 as against Rs.1,809, the figures being absurdly low considering the natural resources of the islands. Cocoanuts and cocoanut products are hardly represented, Marseilles and Bombay affording more profitable markets.

Exports to France.

20. The export of vanilla fell from 27,940 kilos. (Rs.284,995) to 22,342 kilos. (Rs.180,936), a substantial decrease in volume and value. Similarly, tortoiseshell fell from 262 kilos. (Rs.6,151) to 175 kilos. (Rs.4,290). On the other hand, the value of coprah rose from Rs.547 to Rs.5,079: the trade in this product promises to grow rapidly into substantial proportions.

Exports to Mauritius.

21. The figures of exports to Mauritius are fallacious. In the first place, a sum of Rs.96,000 out of the total for 1903 represents specie, including remittances by the Government in order to liquidate liabilities in the United Kingdom; remittances in 1902 amounted to Rs.34,075. These sums include remittances by traders to their correspondents in Mauritius, for the settlement of liabilities incurred in Bombay, artifices of this nature being resorted to owing to the absence of a bank in Seychelles. Practically the whole exports are comprised in cocoanut oil (Rs.101,244) and cocoanuts (Rs.13,999), most of which probably find their way on to the Bombay market. The trade in cocoanut products is notoriously capricious in the variation of demands for the allied products; and there seems every likelihood of the manufacture of cocoanut oil being replaced by the preparation of coprah and poonac and desiccated nuts for the established market at Marseilles or the new industry in London and at Hamburg. The quantity of oil shipped to Mauritius in 1903 was less in value by Rs.38,000 than in 1902. The export of guano has also fallen from 3,688 tons (Rs.53,170) to 880 tons (Rs.8,800).

Exports to India.

22. Owing to the difficulty in gettng freight to Bombay, the direct trade is almost suspended, the Arab and Indian shopkeepers finding it easiest to pay in specie for their stocks instead of exporting produce in settlement of their orders. Goods can be obtained easily from Bombay viâ Aden: but the same route for exports cannot be utilised, without delay at Aden and transhipment by a different line, because the Messageries Maritimes refuse to carry cocoanut products as cargo on their China and Australia mail steamers. The exports to India were cocoanut oil and cocoanuts to the value of Rs.18,018 and specie, Rs.26,000, as against Rs.48,155 and Rs.46,038, respectively, in 1902. Petty Indian traders were in the habit of settling their liabilities by means of money orders until the rate of commission was raised; they then resorted to the exports of rupees, but subsequently have bought up Mauritius notes of high values and sent the halves by post unregistered.

Exports to East Africa.

23. Zanzibar is the chief customer (Rs.46,015) for the soap manufactured in Mahé, the figures for 1902 being Rs.43,466. The export of cocoanut products has increased in value from Rs.6,789 in 1902 to Rs.11,150 in 1903. Specie to the value of Rs.10,500 was exported in 1903. There are many products which Seychelles could sell to the East African Settlements if only some regular means of transport were obtainable. Aden took, in 1903, cocoanut products to the value of Rs.14,785 for redistribution and Rs.6,800 in specie. The figures in 1902 were Rs.10,152 and Rs.23,500, the latter being remittances by Indian traders against imports from Bombay. The direct exports to Natal were valued at Rs.1,141.

Exports to French Colonies.

24. Madagascar was supplied with cocoanut oil (Rs.19,297) and soap (Rs.10,446). The soap shows an increase of Rs.8,052, but there is a very large falling off in the cocoanut products which in 1902 amounted to Rs.40,482. Réunion was a customer to the value of Rs.15,521 in 1902 and Rs.14,702 in 1903. The little direct trade with Ceylon, Hong Kong and European ports outside the United Kingdom or France needs no comment, except that a cargo of 1,100 tons of guano was cleared direct for Holland.

25. The fluctuations in value declared at the Customs are calculated to be misleading in estimating the development of the various products. The subjoined table affords a comparison of the volume and value of the products of the cocoanut palm, in the development of which the fortune of this Colony in great measure rests. (The corresponding figures for vanilla appear in Section 16):—

Year.	Cocoanut oil.		Soap.		Cocoanuts.		Copra.		Total value of cocoanuts, cocoanut oil and soap exported.
	Hectolitres.	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	No. of nuts.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs.
1893	13,576	340,270	15,025	4,101	1,345,800	26,736	—	—	371,107
1894	13,939	338,784	12,398	3,480	1,525,532	30,510	—	—	372,774
1895	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	1,632,860	32,647	—	—	409,279
1896	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	1,293,136	26,237	—	—	486,134
1897	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	1,492,475	29,849	—	—	414,627
1898	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	1,695,236	34,094	—	—	327,447
1899	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	983,418	19,667	—	—	442,286
1900	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	1,083,302	27,524	—	—	331,911
1901	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	1,071,732	26,228	—	—	205,321
1902	11,326	242,343	173,476	45,990	1,117,960	24,815	5,390	827	313,148
1903	18,504	160,977	234,421	56,851	1,241,026	28,848	30,458	5,884	246,676

NOTE —There is at present no export of desiccated cocoanut, poonac or coir (rope yarn or fibre).

26. Of the remaining exports those included in the following table are the most important; the exports of cacao, tortoise-shell and salt fish admit of considerable development. The supply of merchantable guano seems likely to be soon exhausted. Coffee might be exported in larger quantities if prices of Liberian coffee ruled higher; whilst, with a more abundant labour market and scientific cultivation, the export of cloves might again become important. Enquiry is being made as to the resources of the Seychelles in bread fruit and bananas, with a view to supplying the increasing demand, especially at Marseilles, for cheap and nutritious food for stock.

Year.	Cacao.		Coffee.		Guano.		Tortoise-shell.		Salt Fish.*	
	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Tons.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.
1893	7,003	5,602	21	36	—	—	2,402	76,864	—	—
1894	1,650	1,650	—	—	—	—	1,736	52,080	—	—
1895	12,043	9,921	201	241	390	9,650	1,802	74,705	—	—
1896	6,794	4,905	158	158	1,133	22,660	1,701	65,760	—	—
1897	5,714	4,566	627	597	1,105	22,100	1,522	59,341	—	—
1898	8,452	6,762	639	639	491	22,287	1,281	40,992	368	111
1899	7,891	5,049	4,481	2,688	1,940	19,400	973	30,859	19,031	2,286
1900	7,287	6,365	2,565	1,464	3,277	42,159	1,440	35,933	7,139	4,243
1901	5,163	3,051	548	221	5,598	54,463	835	17,099	7,224	2,380
1902	5,966	3,254	1,710	736	7,500	90,234	700	15,426	25,115	5,758
1903	3,824	1,789	820	305	2,944	29,467	920	13,666	14,817	3,820

* Reliable figures for years previous to 1898 are not available.

27. The development of this Colony depends upon the satisfactory solution of several problems, among which one of the most important is the provision of regular means of shipment to the markets for its produce. There seems little difficulty in drawing supplies from Europe or, by means of transhipment at Aden or Mauritius, in obtaining rice and other necessaries from India or Indo-China. The difficulty rests on the lack of means of sending produce to the most suitable market. So long as vanilla was the mainstay of the Colony's wealth, the matter was not of paramount importance, as parcels of high value could be accommodated on the mail steamers for Europe or even sent by parcels post, and the charge per ton levied by the Messageries Maritimes (£16 to Marseilles, £20 to London) did not press unduly on the exporters. But now that the market for vanilla remains depressed for the third year in succession and that there are signs of permanent overproduction as well the substitution, for most of its uses, of a cheap chemical counterfeit, it becomes necessary for the planters and merchants to turn their serious attention to other products.

Among such other products, the derivatives of the cocoanut palm are unquestionably the most important, viz., cocoanut oil, coprah, poonac, desiccated nut, and coir rope yarn or fibre. These industries if provided with suitable machinery are capable of wide development, especially as the markets are large and expanding and are not likely to be glutted or replaced by the introduction of cheaper substitutes. The present prices are remunerative, and the machinery for the preparation of coprah can be extended to other island products, such as manioc, bread fruit, and bananas.

But in order to place these bulky products on the market it is an essential that there should be regular and fairly cheap means of shipment. At present the French mail steamers will not carry cocoanut products for transhipment to the east on the grounds that they are offensive in odour, and cases occur when cargo is shut out owing to the small cargo capacity of the steamers being already taken up by goods from Mauritius, Réunion or Madagascar; the rates charged are excessive.

28. The ruling rates by Messageries Maritimes steamers are as follows, and in a parallel column are the rates which are suggested as remunerative for the shipowners, these rates being approximately what were fixed by the British India Company and the German East African Line when they used to make Mahé a regular port of call.

Rate per Ton.

Produce.	Per M. M. Co.		Now suggested.
	To Marseilles.	To London.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Vanilla	16 0 0	20 0 0	10 0 0
Tortoise-shell	5 0 0	5 10 0	4 0 0
Cocoa, coffee, cloves, &c. ...	6 8 0	6 16 0	3 10 0
Cocoanut oil	3 0 0	3 8 0	2 10 0
General goods	3 0 0	3 8 0	2 10 0
Coprah	2 4 0	2 12 0	2 0 0

With an additional 3*s.* or 4*s.* if carried to any European port beyond Marseilles, *i.e.*, London, Antwerp, or Hamburg.

The volume of imports, for the year 1903, aggregated to 7,560 tons and of exports 6,474 tons.

The figures for the imports, which are offered with the reservation that they are only approximately correct, are given below, with the country of origin, details being furnished of the articles which constitute the bulk of the trade:—

—	Tons.	—
United Kingdom ...	3,173	Coal, 1,872; iron, provisions, spirits.
India	2,832	Rice, 2,109; flour, 154; coal, 92; potatoes, 80; dholl, 79; salt 72.
Mauritius	690	Sugar, 242: rice, 162; rum, 70; salt, 35.
France	448	Wine and spirits, 250; provisions, articles de mode.
Aden	171	Salt, 84; coffee, 54.
Zanzibar	120	Transhipments, petroleum.
Straits Settlements	82	Timber.
Madagascar... ...	21	Animals, turtles.
Ceylon	10	
Réunion	7	
Germany	4	
Switzerland... ...	1	
Delagoa Bay ...	1	
Total	7,560	

The exports represent the following distribution, the largest items being separately specified:—

Exports to.	Quantity.	Details.
Mauritius	3,279	1,736 cocoanut oil, 880 guano, 367 cocoanuts, 132 vacoa bags, 131 coco de mer, 101 firewood.

Exports—cont.

Exports to.	Quantity.	Details.
Holland	1,100	Guano.
United Kingdom ...	1,040	964 guano, 37 vanilla, 25 cocoanut oil.
Zanzibar	293	192 soap, 47 cocoanut oil, 12 cocoanuts.
Madagascar... ...	282	124 cocoanut oil, 91 vacoa bags, 62 soap.
India	179	113 cocoanuts, 43 cocoanut oil, 20 coco de mer.
Aden	108	52 cocoanut oil, 52 cocoanuts.
France	88	28 vanilla, 26 coprah, 14 cocoanuts, 7 hides, 21 fruits.
Réunion	74	29 cocoanuts, 20 cocoanut oil, 17 salt fish.
Colombo	25	14 cocoanuts, 9 cocoanut oil.
Natal	25	23 cocoanuts.
Switzerland ...	7	Soap.
China	5	4¼ cloves.
Germany	¼	Vanilla sample.
Total	6,474¼	

These figures represent the volume of the oversea trade, outside the archipelagos themselves. Given the services of a line of steamers prepared to nurse the trade, by reasonable rates and regular calls and with accommodation for cargo at each visit, there is no reason why the export trade should not at least double itself in volume. Cultivators are turning their attention to other products than vanilla and merchants are considering the erection of desiccating mills; so there is a reasonable prospect of weighty produce taking its legitimate place among the exports. The Government is prepared to contribute a direct subsidy up to Rs.30,000 a year and exemption from all ports and light dues, asking in return that the Colony should be afforded regular, certain and reasonably speedy means for delivering its produce at the markets of Europe, India and East Africa.

(B.) Manufactures.

29. Reference on the subject of manufactures and fisheries is invited to the Blue Book reports for 1899, 1900 and 1901. (*See* Colonial Reports—Annual, Nos. 301, 333 and 364.)

A soap factory supplies the bulk of local wants and exports some 180 tons, mainly to the neighbouring ports of Zanzibar, Madagascar and Mauritius. The ingredients are imported duty free.

An ice factory has been attempted and has failed; another is in course of erection.

A factory for the preparation of coir fibre was once tried but failed owing to conditions which should be avoided in the future.

Desiccating plant exists on a small scale; and is contemplated on a higher and more efficient basis.

The plaiting of vacoa bags from the fronds of the raphia palm (*Raphia ruffia*) is an old established local industry, the position of which is weakened by the superior durability of the gunny bags from Calcutta. However, 261 tons were exported in 1903 to Mauritius, Madagascar and Zanzibar.

(C.) Fisheries.

30. All the natives of Seychelles are born sailors, and have been known as skilled and daring seamen from the times of the Napoleonic wars when the corsairs of Mahé preyed on the East India Company's shipping. Most families on the shore own their own pirogue, as the small fishing boats are called; and inter-island communication is carried on by means of half-decked sailing boats or whale boats. Fish and turtle take the place of meat and large quantities are consumed fresh: schooners bring up salted fish and live turtles in quantities from the outlying islands. Salt fish is exported in varying quantities: in 1903, 14,817 kilos. were exported, valued at Rs.3,821.

The tortoiseshell fisheries (from the hawksbill turtle) in 1903 yielded an export of 920 kilos., valued at Rs.13,667. Mother-of-pearl is procurable and has been sent in samples to test the London market. Tripang, or bêche de mer, is exported in small quantities for China. The bays of Mahé lend themselves, in depth, freedom from currents, and configuration to the cultivation of the pearl oyster.

(D.) Agriculture and Crown Lands.

31. The report of the Curator of the Botanic Station is attached to this report. Mr. Dupont was sent in 1902 on a mission to study the agricultural methods of Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula, and the Dutch Indies. On his return with an admirable selection of valuable plants of all kinds, he has published a series of reports on the cultivation of products, old and new, which are calculated to be of real value to the planters of this Colony. An Agricultural Exhibition was held in 1901, and again in 1903 with increased interest and success.

No grants of Crown land were made in 1903. The estimated area of the 89 islands and islets which comprise this Colony is 95,000 acres, of which 40,000 are under cultivation. The islands unalienated by the Crown may amount to 40,000, of which the Aldabra and Cosmoledo groups, making up a considerable proportion, do not admit of any high degree of cultivation. The Amirantes Islands, Curieuse and Félicité are Crown lands and were under lease in 1903.

32. The agricultural resources of Seychelles are not capable of feeding the existing population. Excluding from consideration the southern archipelago which, except for cocoanut

palms and guano and the fishing, may be considered without resources, the islands forming the Seychelles group proper are densely populated, the population of Mahé itself being 273 per square mile. The staple food is now rice, and almost every household is supplied with rice for at least one meal a day. But the mountainous configuration of the islands with their steep rocky slopes are unsuited for rice cultivation on an extended scale: the few swamps and marshes where rice was once cultivated being now given up to other products. No rice is now grown on the islands and the whole is imported from India or Indo-China; the total quantity imported in 1903 having been 2,276 tons.

The foodstuffs locally grown are manioc (cassava), cocoanuts and bread fruit; supplemented by pork, fish and turtle. The pigs fed on the bread fruit are numerous and of good quality; the seas yield an abundant and various supply of fish and turtle. Fish is salted in large quantities among the outlying islands and is consumed in every household. Only a few head of cattle are kept on the Islands, mainly for draught purposes or milk, there being little good pasture land. Practically beef is very seldom eaten; mutton is almost unknown; but the Seychellois, nevertheless, thrive without a meat diet and are active and of good physique. The mountain sides are highly cultivated with spices and the coast is fringed with palms; the detritus from the granite rocks rendering the uplands fertile, and the coast, composed of laterite and coral sand, being well adapted to the cultivation of the cocoanut palm.

As a natural consequence the meat and drink bill, as shown in the imports, is large in proportion to the population. The subjoined list shows the value of the foodstuffs imported in 1902 and 1903:—

Articles.	1903.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rice	247,743	176,432
Sugar	44,474	36,571
Flour	25,658	24,142
Provisions ...	15,886	22,492
Confectionery ...	8,928	6,614
Potatoes	5,645	5,108
Live stock ...	5,520	1,700
Biscuits	5,102	1,941
Preserves	4,708	3,084
Salt	3,323	4,834
Butter and lard ...	2,168	2,841
Cheese	2,106	1,137
Olive oil	1,747	2,793
Salt meat	1,607	2,402
Ham and bacon ...	1,176	1,335
Total ...	367,488	293,378

In addition to the foregoing list, there are the following articles of food imported for the use of the Arab, Indian and Chinese settlers:—dholl, gram, dates, beans, sago, peas, fruits, raisins, syrup and barley to the value of Rs.12,631 in 1903 and Rs.8,820 in 1902, besides the usual condiments and curry-stuffs, amounting in value to Rs.6,267 in 1903 and Rs.5,590 in 1902. The total bill for foodstuffs amounted in 1903 to Rs.395,679 or about Rs.20 per head, and in 1902 to Rs.307,788.

The drink bill again is represented almost entirely by purchases from abroad, the only local intoxicant being "bacca," the juice expressed from the sugar cane which, if left a few hours to ferment, is a strong intoxicant, and of which the peasants are inordinately fond. The distillation of rum is now prohibited and the little quantity of sugar cane grown is used for making "bacca." The possession of fermented "bacca" is a contravention of the law, but as its use is permitted in an unfermented state and all the neighbours are of one accord in liking it in its fermented state, it is very difficult to enforce the law effectually.

The following figures show the amount spent on drinkables imported from abroad:—

	1903.	1902.
	Rs.	Rs.
Wines—		
Claret and red wines	46,767	39,675
Vermouth	10,758	7,524
Champagne	2,116	1,556
Total wines	59,641	48,755
Spirits—		
Whisky	12,143	8,180
Rum	10,000	20,049
Brandy	9,823	8,430
Absinthe...	3,968	3,507
Liqueurs...	3,747	1,122
Gin	1,680	1,806
Mastic	403	150
Total spirits	41,764	43,244
Coffee	14,948	12,811
Beer	6,106	3,916
Tea	1,138	2,430
Total drink bill	123,597	111,156

The figures for 1903 represent an outlay of over Rs.6 per head of the population in 1903. The falling off in the consumption of rum during the last few years is worthy of note.

(E.) Shipping.

Comparative Tables of Shipping, 1902, 1903.

33. The following four tables show the number, tonnage and nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the last two years.

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1902 ...	24	5,363	3	135	1	57	4	2,105	32	7,660
1903 ...	17	3,442	—	—	1	663	1	767	19	4,872

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1902 ...	24	5,890	2	90	1	57	4	2,105	31	8,142
1903 ...	17	3,348	—	—	—	—	1	767	18	4,115

(3.) *Steamers Entered.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1902 ...	13	35,886	27	51,467	14	21,312	1	3,400	55	112,065
1903 ...	21	54,401	28	58,165	13	18,787	—	—	62	131,358

(4.) *Steamers Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Italian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1902 ...	12	33,941	27	51,467	14	21,312	1	3,400	54	110,120
1903 ...	22	56,346	28	28,765	13	18,787	—	—	63	135,298

The following tables, which are numbered (5) and (6) for facility of reference, give information respecting the men-of-war of all nations which have visited Seychelles during the last five years, and a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the same period:—

(5.) *Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles from* 1899–1903.

Year.	British.			American.			Austrian.			Dutch.			French.			German.			Italian.			Portuguese.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1899	5	9,871	30	—	—	—	1	2,440	10	1	7,000	12	1	2,000	4	4	14,589	78	1	1,399	4	1	2,993	2	40,292
1900	10	27,631	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	8	1	3,149	14	1	1,120	13	1	400	4	1	1,800	12	42,000
1901	4	13,124	12	3	5,283	48	2	3,880	27	—	—	—	1	3,149	28	7	50,511	92	—	—	—	1	638	5	76,585
1902	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4,117	32	—	—	—	1	3,400	14	—	—	—	7,517
1903	10	35,795	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9,867	36	3	1,770	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,432
Totals	29	86,421	206	3	5,283	48	3	6,320	37	2	14,900	20	7	22,282	114	15	67,990	212	3	5,199	22	3	5,431	19	213,828

(6.) *Comparative Table of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards for the last five years* 1899–1903.

Year.	—	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian		Portuguese		Spanish.		Totals.		Total Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
1899	Inwards	46	62,923	—	—	1	2,400	1	7,000	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	4	1,254	1	2,993	—	—	64	96,263	192,178
	Outwards	45	62,839	—	—	1	2,400	1	7,000	5	2,331	5	15,961	1	1,399	3	992	1	2,993	—	—	62	95,915	
1900	Inwards	86	140,222	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,345	1	400	4	2,424	1	1,800	—	—	100	158,570	317,091
	Outwards	86	140,211	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,345	1	400	5	2,686	1	1,800	—	—	101	158,821	
1901	Inwards	55	78,834	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	89	169,502	338,464
	Outwards	55	78,415	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	89	168,962	
1902	Inwards	37	41,249	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	51,592	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	87	119,715	237,977
	Outwards	36	39,831	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	51,557	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	85	118,262	
1903	Inwards	38	58,843	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	14	19,450	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	81	137,282	274,645
	Outwards	39	59,694	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	13	18,787	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	81	137,413	
	Totals ...	523	763,061	6	10,566	6	12,560	8	35,500	168	277,886	85	198,609	6	10,398	34	18,466	6	10,862	2	3,720	839	1,360,655	1,360,655

Trade and Mail Communication.

34. The falling off in the number of sailing ships calling at Victoria is due to the absence of sailing ships chartered to bring coal to Victoria; a stock of coal having been accumulated during the period of the South African war in excess of peace requirements. The tonnage of British and French shipping is once again on an equality. The French shipping is composed of the mail steamers belonging to the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes which call at Victoria once a month on the outward and homeward voyages between Marseilles and Mauritius. In return for a subsidy of 2,000 francs for each call and exemption from all port and harbour dues, the Company carries Seychelles mails and cargo. There is no contract and so there are no penalties for non-observance of the conditions of agreement beyond the loss of the subvention for calling. During 1903 the service was performed with punctuality. The planters and traders of Seychelles are still embarrassed from the absence of regular means of communication with Bombay or Colombo and the East Coast of Africa. Bombay is the natural market for the cocoanut products of the islands and is the port whence many of the imports can be most conveniently obtained: while the export trade to Zanzibar and Mombassa should be capable of considerable development. The German East African Line has ceased to call at Victoria and the British India Line sends steamers only when a minimum cargo of 300 tons is guaranteed either to or from Bombay. The difficulty consists not so much in the ultimate probability of securing this quantity of cargo on an average as in the reluctance of the company to make the regular calls at first until the volume of the trade has been built up from the certainty of the regular service. The development of local industries, such as the desiccation of cocoanuts, the making of soap, and the preparation of coprah, poonac, or fibre, is checked by the difficulty and cost of transmission to an open market. The rates charged for homeward freights by the Messageries steamer are so high as to prevent the competition of the Seychelles with, for instance, the West Indies, in many items of tropical produce. Coprah is carried at 44*s.* a ton to Marseilles; cocoanut oil and general produce at 60*s.*; cacao, coffee and spices at 128*s.*; with the addition of 8*s.* per ton for carriage to London. The rates for vanilla are £16 per ton to Marseilles and £20 to London.

Means of Communication among the Islands.

35. The Government steam launch "Alexandra," built at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, arrived in December, 1902, and has been of the greatest public benefit. She made in 1903 twenty-four voyages, on a fixed fortnightly service to Praslin and La Digue, besides making thirteen voyages to

the outlying islands, enabling the Governor on four occasions to make visits of inspection. She carried 437 paying passengers and 106 Government officials and covered 1,564 miles during the year. Her longest voyage was made to Denis Island and Cow Island, the total distance of this trip being 135 miles. She is a good and solid seaboat, but she is not fitted for making prolonged trips during the south-east trades when the sea runs high among the islands. Her engines are in good condition and she has on four occasions proved useful for towing purposes. The total cost of her maintenance and equipment for the year was Rs.5,870 and the receipts from the transport of passengers and towage amounted to Rs.1,778.

The Government cutter "Wave" of 7½ tons has been in use for about fifty years. She made during the year ten voyages to the outlying islands, conveying 107 passengers and 22 tons of cargo, and sailed 1,540 miles. She is employed for carrying the monthly pay and rations to the staff of the Denis Island lighthouse and the Government material to Baie Ste. Anne at Praslin and to the pauper camp on Round Island, carrying back fuel and firewood from Curieuse. Her total cost for the year was Rs.426.

It had been hoped that the construction of an 80-ton schooner might have been commenced for visiting the more distant islands, some of which are from 600 to 700 miles from Mahé; but the condition of the finances has compelled the postponement of this project. Meanwhile, the tours of inspection by the visiting Magistrate under the provisions of the Outlying Islands Labour Ordinance, 1902, have been carried out on sailing vessels, of which there are fifteen in private hands which trade between the Seychelles Archipelago and visit Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion and Bombay. During 1903, the visiting Magistrate inspected the following islands: Daros, Rémire, Poivre, Desroches (in the Amirantes Group); Alphonse, Bijoutier, St. François, Providence, Denis, Bird Island, Flat Island, North Island, Silhouette and Frigate. The groups not visited during the year were Cosmoledo, Astove, Assumption and Aldabra.

III.—LEGISLATION.

36. During the year 1903, 38 Ordinances were passed by the local legislature; of these the following are the principal:—

No. 4.—Enacts that no telegraphic or electrical apparatus, &c., may be erected or used in the Colony without the sanction of the Governor.

No. 7.—"The Licences Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance" regulates (i) the sale of spirits, wine, and beer, and provides generally for the management of licensed premises; (ii) the hawking of goods for sale; (iii) the manufacture and sale of gold and silver wares. It lays down the legal procedure for the recovery of duties and penalties due under the Ordinance and sets forth in a Schedule thereto the description of the business, profession or trade requiring to be licensed and the amount payable.

No. 8.—Regulates the number of strokes which may be awarded in relation to the age of a person convicted and sentenced to be flogged, and the conditions under which corporal punishment may be inflicted.

No. 11.—Empowers the Governor in Council to sell Crown lands, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State; to grant concessions of Crown lands for religious or educational purposes for a nominal price or rent; and provides that all sales of Crown land shall be by public auction or tender—leases may be by private contract. It sets forth the terms and conditions under which sales or leases may be negotiated. The Ordinance also deals with squatters on Crown lands and provides for the appointment of Forest Rangers. It creates river reserves and makes penal the destruction in certain cases of trees growing therein; also the unauthorised cutting or destruction of trees on Crown land, and lays down the procedure to be followed in cases arising under the Ordinance.

No. 12.—Empowers the Governor in Council to authorise the filling up, within a certain prescribed area, to the prescribed level, either by the owners of the adjoining property (a preferential right being afforded them) or by the Superintendent of Public Works, of portions of the foreshore of the town of Victoria. In the event of the Superintendent filling up, the costs incurred constitute a charge on the adjoining property; or where the owner renounces his right the lot so filled up becomes Crown property.

No. 16.—Amends and consolidates the law in force in the Colony—scattered about as it was in the Mauritius Statute Book—as to expenses of witnesses.

No. 17. Regulates the position of officers in charge of the waterworks in the central district of Mahé and provides for the better distribution of water by means of "prises,"

i.e., shares yielding a fixed supply at a fixed quarterly rent. Vested rights are protected, and provision is made for the prosecution of persons found polluting the water.

No. 18.—Consolidates and amends the law relating to penalties and to the mode of enforcement of judgments for fines, costs and forfeitures. It provides a uniform scale of imprisonment in default of payment of fines and costs and deals with the probation of offenders.

No. 19.—Deals with the acquisition of land for public purposes and lays down the procedure to be followed. In cases of dispute arising respecting the compensation offered for land to be acquired provision is made for reference to arbitration. The Governor may after the award withdraw from the purchase of the land on payment to the owner of any damages directly arising in consequence of the action of the Government.

No. 22.—Regulates the appointment and service of pilots.

No. 23.—Regulates the procedure for the registration of trade marks and the protection of merchandise marks as adapted from the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887 (50 & 51 Vict., c. 28).

No. 24.- Provides for the proper use and distribution, both for public and private purposes, of water from the rivers and streams in the Colony. All rivers and streams are declared to be public property (du domaine publique). Measures are prescribed for the prevention of their pollution.

No. 27.—Reproduces with amendments the existing law relating to the manufacture of fermented cane and certain other juices commonly known as "Bacca." It prohibits the possession of "Bacca" except by a duly licensed distiller and authorises the issue of search warrant.

No. 32.—Amends and consolidates the law relating to the medical treatment of servants in certain of the islands. By its provisions an employer is under an obligation to provide medical care only in cases where the servant resides or the premises. On Estates where ten or more servants are employed under written contract of service and hospital accommodation has to be provided, the conditions of construction are defined. On failure to comply with the provisions of the Ordinance a penalty not exceeding Rs.500 is imposed.

No. 34.—Establishes scholarships of an annual value of £250 tenable for four years or £200 tenable for five years to enable the holder to pursue his studies in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. The qualifications necessary are detailed in the Ordinance. An allowance for passage money is also provided.

No. 36.—"The Interpretation and Common Form Ordinance," provides, as far as possible, for uniformity of expressions and gives legislative sanction to the construction

that terms or expressions of French law in Ordinance or French equivalents to English expressions where used shall be construed in accordance with French law. It further enacts a general provision for the protection of public officers in the execution of their duties.

No. 37.—Revises the Customs tariff and fixes the rate of exchange for the purpose of levying "*ad valorem*" duties on goods imported from gold standard countries. The duty on champagne and other sparkling wines has been increased from 30 cents. per bottle not exceeding two litres to 60 cents. The "*ad valorem*" duty on "*articles de mode*" has been reduced from 12½ per cent. to 8 per cent. and on other articles from 15 per cent. to 12½ per cent. Medical instruments and appliances have been added to the free list.

This list practically concludes the scheme of legislation inaugurated and carried through by my predecessor. He found the laws governing this colony in a state of bewildering confusion; few persons knowing what laws or portions of laws had been introduced into Seychelles by proclamation or implication or by local regulation. There still remains to be achieved the compilation of a penal code, revised to be in harmony with recognised principles, and the edition of the existing laws in a compact volume: both of these works are in a forward state and should be completed before the end of the current year. In the preparation of the 132 Ordinances for which Mr. Sweet-Escott and the Legislative Council were responsible during his tenure of office as Administrator and Governor, the greatest assistance was received from Mr. Herchenroder, first in his capacity as Legal Adviser and subsequently as Judge and Chief Justice. The Colony owes a debt of gratitude for the skill and patience whereby the code of laws has been systematized and consolidated.

The sources from which the laws of Seychelles have been derived are very varied in character. Although Mahé formally capitulated to the British in 1794, and although that capitulation was formally renewed in 1806, the French Governor, Monsieur Quéau de Quincy, remained in office and administered the Colony, as far as its legislation at least was concerned, under the direction of General Decaen, Capitaine Général of the French establishments to the east of the Cape of Good Hope, from his seat of Government at the isle of France—now Mauritius—from 1803 to 1810.

During these years, the Civil Code Decaen, the Code of Civil Procedure and the Code of Commerce, based on the legislation of the Napoleonic period, were introduced by Arrêtés into Seychelles: and the French Penal Code with modifications was embodied in the Mauritius Ordinance, No. 6 of 1836, and extended to Seychelles.

The foregoing form the basis of the laws of this Colony.

The other sources of supply include the laws passed in Mauritius and made applicable to Seychelles, in whole or in part, by proclamation or by implication: the local laws framed as regulations of a Board of Civil Commissioners from 1872 to 1889, running parallel with legislation in Mauritius, and since 1889 by Ordinances of the Legislative Council of Seychelles with the proclamations and regulations framed thereunder: and finally Acts of Parliament and Orders in Council.

The most ancient laws are collected in the Code Delaleu (1766-1787), the collection Rouillard (1787-1803), the Code Decaen (1803-1810), the Code Farquhar (1810-1823), and the collection Rouillard of the laws of Sir G. Lowry Cole (1823-1832) up to this date, the official language being still French. The volumes in which the laws are enshrined are numerous and are difficult to procure; so the need of revision and consolidation is demonstrated, justifying to the full the legislative activity of recent years. When the Chief Justice shall have completed his new work, the "Revised Laws of Seychelles," it will be possible to collate the laws on the same subject and perhaps reduce the number of the authorities.

IV.—EDUCATION.

37.—The direction of the educational policy of the Colony is under the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and his Executive Council, advised by an Education Committee composed of the Chief Justice (Chairman), four members nominated by the Governor (of whom two are officials and two are not officials), two persons nominated by the Roman Catholic Bishop and one by the Civil Chaplain (of the Church of England), with the Inspector of Schools as Secretary.

Primary education is imparted in 23 schools, 20 being Roman Catholic under the direction of the Marist Brothers or the Sisters of the Society of St. Joseph de Cluny, and three under the auspices of the Church of England. There are no primary schools of an undenominational character. The number of the pupils enrolled in these schools is 2,265 and the average attendance 1,507 (66·5 per cent.): both the numbers on the roll and the average attendance fell owing to the prevalence in 1903 of an epidemic of measles. The schools are examined according to standards under a prescribed curriculum and receive grants-in-aid, based mainly on results and partly on an average of attendance. The vote for this head of service is Rs.12,000.

Secondary education for boys is imparted at the Victoria School (134 pupils), the Government undenominational institution, and at the paying branch of the St. Louis College

(134 pupils) conducted by the Marist Brothers. Some 40 pupils receive advanced education at small private schools. A most liberal endowment of scholarships open without restriction is provided by the Government to enable advanced scholars to continue their studies at the Royal College of Mauritius or in Great Britain.

For girls, higher education is provided by the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny at the convent schools in Victoria (120 pupils).

38. The standard of knowledge acquired by the pupils is not high when measured by what is now expected in most countries. The peasant children and the children of negro origin are not naturally bright and labour under the disadvantage of knowing only a creole patois which is too restricted and rude to be a medium of learning. As far as possible, English is now the sole medium through which teaching is imparted, but its acquisition is that of a foreign language. The same difficulty would apply in almost as marked a degree to the use of French as a medium. But little assistance is received from home surroundings, as the patois is in the great majority of houses the sole language used.

At St. Louis College and at the Convent School, better material is available and a good sensible training is imparted; but the Government institution labours under great disadvantages in the variety of boys attending it, as the bulk of the well-to-do parents are Roman Catholic and send their children to the denominational school. However, there are indications that the good teaching staff secured for the Victoria school will, with patience and persistent effort, attain to good results. The cost of Victoria School is disproportionately high, for the time being; but it is essential in this Colony that higher education should be obtainable apart from denominational training.

The weak points in the present system seem to be (1) a want of continuity of training from the primary to the secondary schools which may be remedied by granting free tuition at the Government school to the most promising pupils of the country schools, and (2) a lack of technical training for those children who through their origin and surroundings are not receptive of book learning but who have the making of skilled craftsmen if some elementary knowledge of trades is also imparted to them.

School Statistics, 1899 to 1903.

In the following table are given statistics respecting the Grant-in-Aid School and the Victoria School for the last five years:—

——	Roman Catholic.*					Church of England.					Victoria School and Infant School.†				
	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
No. of schools	21	21	23	22	22	6	6	6	4	3	1	1	2	2	2
No. of pupils on roll	2,129	2,247	2,377	2,435	2,315	374	348	343	267	170	106	113	106	123	134
No. of pupils in average attendance.	1,619	1,717	1,690	1,458	1,532	259	241	227	183	148	76	79	82	101	80
‡ Grant earned	Rs. 8,450	Rs. 8,451	Rs. 9,573	Rs. 9,128	Rs. 10,469	Rs. 1,549	Rs. 1,548	Rs. 1,702	Rs. 1,211	Rs. 1,385	†Note.—The cost of these schools is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff consists of a head master, five assistant masters, two pupil teachers, and schoolmistress for the infant school.				

* These schools include the St. Louis College and Convent paying schools.

‡ The annual provision for grants to schools was increased in 1901 from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000.

39. An agricultural and industrial exhibition (the second of its kind) was held in October and attracted 391 exhibits: the general standard of excellence showed a marked advance on that of the exhibition of 1901. There were many competitors and much keen rivalry. In December was held the second annual competitive exhibition of school work, a show which excited great enthusiasm and elicited much excellent work of a practical kind. The number of exhibits was 823, principally plain and fancy needlework, straw plaiting and basket work, drawings, book-keeping and mechanical models.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

40. The Victoria Hospital is the only institution of the kind in the Seychelles. The excellent system of roads carried out by my predecessor renders it unnecessary to establish a similar institution in South Mahé. A cottage hospital in Praslin, to serve the group of islands administered from that centre would be a public benefit, and plans and estimates will be prepared and the project kept in view until such time as the resources of the Colony are in an improved condition to justify the expenditure. It is also under contemplation to establish an asylum for the insane at Anse Royale under the care of Dr. Bradley, the Assistant Medical Officer for South Mahé, who has had special training in the study of lunacy. The present arrangement of deporting persons adjudged to be insane to the asylum at Mauritius is attended with obvious disadvantages. The Victoria Hospital is supplemented by the establishment of six outdoor dispensaries, namely, one at Victoria under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer and his assistant; two at Anse Royale and at Anse Boileau, respectively, serving the needs of the southern end of Mahé under the direction of the Assistant Medical Officer for that division; and three under the Medical Officer at the island of Praslin, namely, two on Praslin itself at Baie St. Anne and Grand'Anse and one on the adjacent island of La Digue. The medical wants of the more distant groups of islands are looked after by the Assistant Medical Officer at Victoria, who pays periodical visits in his capacity of Visiting Magistrate, under the provisions of Ordinance, No. 6 of 1902.

41. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital from 1899 to 1903 are given in the following table:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1899 ...	190	54	12	6	9	273
1900 ...	112	58	23	12	14	219
1901 ...	147	53	21	17	9	247
1902 ...	176	43	23	14	10	266
1903 ...	172	52	8	28	9	269

The hospital death rate for the year was high, viz., 9·63 per cent., but the exceptional figures are due to the same conditions which caused the unusually high general death rate for the year under review. Patients were brought into hospital too late for recovery, 10 out of the 28 deaths having occurred within 48 hours of admission.

Dispensaries.

42. The number of persons who attended for treatment at the outdoor dispensaries has increased from 2,340 to 2,709, of whom 794 were males and 1,915 females. The bulk of these cases (namely, 2,020) were treated at Victoria. In South Mahé, 387 cases were treated, and at Praslin and La Digue, 302. A new dispensary at Anse Boileau was opened during the year, for the convenience of those who live on the west coast of the division of South Mahé.

Principal Diseases.

43. To the abnormally wet weather during the first six months of 1903 was due the fact that the year 1903 proved the most unhealthy during the past decade. Over 100 inches of rain (equal to the average rainfall of a year) were registered from January to June, and the rainfall was evenly distributed among all the months, with the result that the death rate rose to 23·52 per mille, or 6·31 per mille higher than the average (17·21) of the previous five years.

Cases of beri-beri were prevalent in the early part of the year, but disappeared at the end of the wet weather. An epidemic of measles accounted for eighteen deaths. Rheumatism was the cause, aggravated by the abnormal damp, of more suffering than usual. The prevalence of dysentery was attributed in part to the turbidity of the streams. The disease was aggravated in many cases by congestion of the liver and liver abscess. The Chief Medical Officer reports that cases of phthisis are on the increase, and he repeats the warning that the climate of Seychelles is not favourable to consumptive cases. In the current year, the mortality has resumed its normal rates to the population.

Leper Asylum and Pauper Camp.

44. On the 31st December, there were nine lepers in the home. The Medical Officer in Charge is of opinion that leprosy is not increasing, but his experience goes to show that there are families in which there is susceptibility towards the malady. The condition of the lepers has been greatly ameliorated by the building of a large reservoir for rain water, by the terracing of the land adjoining the home and by the provision of cemented floors.

The number of paupers maintained by the Government was 10 at the close of the year under review. These represent the old and destitute without any relatives who are bound under the French law to maintain them. A proposal to transfer the camp from Round Island to better quarters at Mahé is contemplated but under abeyance in view of the falling revenue.

Lunatic Asylum.

45. The insane are still sent from Seychelles for care and treatment at the Government Asylum of Mauritius; the number had fallen to 15 at the end of 1903. The disadvantages of long transfer by sea in sailing vessels—for the regular mail steamers refuse insane patients—are obvious, and the distance causes difficulties attending discharge on probation. Moreover, the charge of maintenance is high and the costs of transport are sometimes excessive. It is proposed, therefore, to establish an asylum home under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer at Anse Royale, who has made a special study of mental disease, and a site has been secured for the erection of the necessary buildings.

Vaccination.

46. The lymph supplied during the year has given very good results:—

Successful—1st time	513
„ 2nd „	49
„ 3rd „	11
Unsuccessful	12
Total	591

The subject of revaccination is under discussion. The younger generation have been vaccinated and are well protected. Most of the old people have had small-pox during the epidemic of 1884: but there exists a class of wage earners who are left unprotected should small-pox be again introduced.

Savings Bank.

47. The Government Savings Bank consists of the central bank in Victoria, opened in 1894, of a branch at Baie Ste. Anne, Praslin, opened in 1901, and of branches at La Digue and Anse Royale, both opened in 1902. The number of accounts continues to increase steadily, but the average amount invested per account has decreased, being some Rs.200 as compared with Rs.330 in 1899. The falling off in the total

sum deposited was checked in 1903, and it is equal to the total of 1901. The branch offices transact very little business. The total deposits during the year amounted to Rs.31,621 and the withdrawals to Rs.26,218.

48. The following table gives the savings bank statistics for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs.
1899 ...	214	47	24	70,605.18
1900 ...	221	35	28	61,492.04
1901 ...	243	52	30	58,761.19
1902 ...	279	44	8	52,663.92
1903 ...	291	35	23	58,067.07

49. The amount invested on behalf of the savings bank is the same as in 1900, when the funds were first invested, but the depreciation in stocks at the end of 1903 shows a nominal decrease in value from Rs.70,556 to Rs.63,370, there being still a margin of Rs.5,303 in excess of the deposits.

50. Attention is drawn in the Blue Book reports for 1899, 1900 and 1901 to the need of a bank in Seychelles. The normal rate of interest on mortgages is 12 per cent., swelled in most cases by onerous conditions, such as a charge of 5 per cent. as commission for negotiating the loan, and a condition that the whole produce of the property shall be sold to the creditor at a fixed rate, generally below market price. The indifference or carelessness of proprietors in prosperous years has led to the mortgages being continued on most estates when a little care and foresight might have freed the properties; with the result that, in bad years, credit is checked and advances called in, aggravating the position of the majority of the cultivators. There is little doubt that, with judicious concentration of factories and up-to-date machinery and appliances, the value of the exports from the islands might be very largely increased, especially among the products of the coconut palm. But the lack of capital and the cost and scarcity of the freight combine to retard the agricultural development of the Colony.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force.

51. The authorised strength of the police force was 79 of all ranks, viz., an inspector, a sub-inspector, a sergeant-major, 3 sergeants, 6 corporals, 62 constables and 5 harbour police.

In addition to the central station at Victoria, there are 13 outstations; constables are also placed at the localities assigned to the Ashanti and the Uganda political prisoners. The force had been increased in 1902 in order to strengthen the detachments at out-stations so that they might be kept open by night as well as by day and to secure a better patrolling of the country districts. These objects have in the main been secured, and the police force is in a fairly satisfactory condition. Its cost in 1903 was Rs.40,128.75.

The police prosecuted in 869 cases, involving 1,079 accused persons, of whom 987 persons were convicted, The value of property lost and reported to the police was Rs.2,906, of which property to the value of Rs.2,085 was recovered. The amount of fines inflicted, under police prosecution, was Rs.9,303.

52. The following table shows the volume of the judicial work transacted in the five years 1899 to 1903.

Judicial Statistics, 1899 *to* 1903.

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Court Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1899 ...	577	563	764	671	133	61	94
1900 ...	870	860	1,096	931	183	85	80
1901 ...	912	899	1,147	959	187	72	69
1902 ...	1,098	1,083	1,346	1,097	235	100	73
1903 ...	1,108	1,099	1,293	1,071	271	94	64

53. The number of cases of crimes and misdemeanours dealt with in the Court of Seychelles was 206: 246 persons were charged, 190 convicted and 56 acquitted. The more serious charges included 2 cases of forgery; 5 of assaults on the police; 16 cases of causing hurt, of which only one involved grievous hurt; indecent assault, 1; larceny with aggravating circumstances, 22; embezzlement, 3; and arson, 1.

The number of cases dealt with in the Police Court for contraventions against the law was 511, in which 650 persons were charged and 545 convicted. The Justice of the Peace in South Mahé had before him 296 accused persons, of whom

243 were convicted; the Justice of the Peace at Praslin tried 123 persons and convicted 106. The Visiting Magistrate for the outlying islands dealt with 13 cases in which 14 persons were tried and convicted; none of these last cases were of a serious character, being offences under the labour laws.

The population as a whole is singularly law-abiding: the offences against the person disclose few aggravated crimes; and those against property, including the theft of praedial produce, only number 85. There were 337 cases of drunkenness brought before the Court, and this offence continues to be the most regrettable vice. Its principal cause is the facility with which "bacca," the juice of the sugar cane, can be expressed: this preparation, allowed to ferment, is an intoxicant to which the peasants are inordinately addicted; and detection is difficult, owing to the tendency of neighbours to screen the offender.

Prison.

54. The number of persons committed to prison during 1903 amounted to 382 men and 68 women, showing an increase of 66 over the figures for 1902; but out of this total, 327 were under remand for safe custody or for want of security and in default of payment of fines imposed by the Courts. The number actually committed to undergo penal imprisonment were 118 men and 5 women. The daily average of prisoners was 45, of whom 5 were women. There were 51 admissions during the year to the prison hospital—all of them males—and one death occurred from beri-beri.

The subjoined table shows the statistics for the past five years:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1899...	321	50
1900...	315	52
1901...	276	40
1902...	384	40
1903...	450	45

55. The accommodation at the prison in Victoria is in course of improvement: the female prison having been renovated and the hospital improvements completed in 1903. When the projected extensions have been completed during 1904 and 1905, the prison will be on a level with modern requirements. There is no other prison in the Colony, prisoners being detained under the charge of the police until they can be forwarded to Victoria.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

56. The estimated population on the 31st December, 1902, was 19,772; the total was increased by only 200 in the course of 1903. The comparatively small increase in the population was due to a falling off in the births, as compared with 1902, of 24, an increase of 146 in the number of deaths, and an excess of 4 in the departures over the arrivals. The population is, however, considerably in excess of the present capacity of the Colony to feed it; and a considerable portion of the food supply is imported, mainly rice, from India and Indo-China. There is an excess of males, the numbers being 10,162 males and 9,610 females.

Birth Rate.

57. The number of births was 667, the birth rate being 33·84 per 1,000, against 35·72 in 1902 and 32·61 in 1901. The number of still births was 53.

Death Rate.

58. The number of deaths was 465, the death rate being abnormally high, viz., 23·52 per 1,000, as compared with 319 deaths in 1902 and a death rate of 16·49 per 1,000. The death rate in 1901 was 18·77 and in 1900 it stood at 18·28, but the average for the previous five years was 17·21. Under normal conditions Seychelles is a very healthy place, especially in comparison with other tropical countries. The causes of death as declared by the Civil Status Offices are not given with sufficient accuracy to be of value; but it may be safely concluded that the two principal agencies in the unusually high mortality were the epidemic of measles which prevailed from March to September and the unusually wet weather during the first six months of the year. To the former cause, although only 18 deaths are certified to be due to measles, must be attributed the fact that the deaths of children under six years rose from 129 in 1902 to 169 in 1903 or 37 per cent. of the whole mortality; to the latter cause is due the marked increase in those disorders—fevers, dysentery and pneumonia —which are aggravated under conditions of incessant rain. A marked feature in the mortality returns is the proportion of very old persons who have died during the year: 125 deaths (27 per cent.) are registered as of ages above 50 years; 50 (11 per cent.) are registered as to ages above 70, of whom six were centenarians. Although the evidence of age is not in most cases conclusive, there seems a marked longevity among the creole peasants and among the liberated Africans who were landed in this Colony from ships of war engaged in the suppression of the slave trade.

Climate.

59. The following table gives the rainfall and the maxima and minima shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall.	Maximum Shade Temperature.	Minimum Shade Temperature.
1899...	88·42	87·4	70·0
1900...	110·75	88·7	74·1
1901...	102·26	88·5	68·4
1902...	87·81	88·0	68·0
1903...	132·96	88·5	68·0

The average daily maximum was 83·2°, the minimum 74·1°. The mean temperature was 78·65°, appreciably less than the average of the past five years, which is 79·085°.

Rain fell on 171 days; the total fall exceeding the average for the twelve previous years (100·8 inches) by no less than 32 inches. The highest previous recorded fall was 115·08 inches in 1896 and the lowest 87·45 inches in 1892. From January to June the rainfall was consistently heavy and continuous, ranging from 14·12 in February to 20·01 in June, the total for the half year being 100·08 inches.

These figures afford a startling contrast to the record for the first six months of 1904, when after an abnormal fall of 29·61 in January and a heavy fall of 14·76 in February, the total for the four months following measured only 4·68 as compared with 68·19 in the corresponding months of 1903. From an agricultural point of view, the drought in 1904 has been much more harmful than the excessive rain of 1903.

Wind.

60. The south-east trades were established on the 7th May and blew steadily until the 21st October, the maximum strength being attained on the 27th July, when the wind was registered as blowing 22·4 miles an hour. The northerly and north-westerly trades with light variable breezes and calms prevailed during the rest of the year, the wind on no occasion exceeding 11 miles in velocity. Seychelles is situated to the north of the area of cyclones and hurricanes, the observations of navigators from the earliest times being unanimous in referring to the absence of violent atmospheric disturbances. The disastrous landslip in 1862 was accompanied by a high wind, but was due to the loosening of the laterite soil by incessant rain.

The average force of the wind during each month of 1902 and 1903 is given in the following table:—

Month.	Miles per hour, 1902.	Miles per hour, 1903.
January	7·3	6·3
February	6·2	5·7
March	4·6	5·3
April	4·7	4·6
May	8·9	6·2
June	10·6	11·2
July	10·7	12·8
August...	11·9	12·5
September	12·0	12·2
October	7·1	8·7
November	4·5	4·3
December	8·2	4·5

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Post Office Statistics, 1899 to 1903.

61. The following table shows a further steady advance in the Postal Department in all directions, except that, while the remittances abroad by means of money order show a slight increase over the figures for 1902, the value of the money orders paid still declines:—

Year	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
External—					
Letters received	28,544	57,831	65,210	68,028	71,240
Letters sent	38,040	39,879	48,649	53,768	59,700
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., received.	47,540	59,379	61,167	86,684	86,900
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., sent.	6,810	2,750	9,576	7,404	6,620
Parcels received	259	393	390	1,119	932
Parcels sent	392	422	1,369	856	656
Totals	121,585	160,654	186,361	219,451	226,118
Internal—					
Letters and newspapers received and sent.	—	—	13,997	43,463	46,624

Post Office Statistics—cont.

Year	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903,
External—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	62,673	95,295	64,302	58,587	60,412
Money Orders paid ...	22,325	16,315	22,107	19,609	16,596
Totals	84,998	111,610	86,409	78,196	77,008
Internal—					
Money Orders issued and paid.	—	—	—	1,258	3,889

62. The expansion of business is reflected by the increase in the gross revenue derived from the department, the receipts having grown from Rs.10,049.21 in 1899, Rs.15,043.85 in 1900, Rs.23,381.84 in 1901, and Rs.29,760.52 in 1902, to Rs.35,171.71 in 1903; being more than treble the total of 1899, more than double of 1900, and an advance of over 18 per cent. on 1902.

The internal postal service has for the first time paid its way, the deficit of Rs.901 in 1901 and of Rs.426 in 1902 being converted to a profit of Rs.268. The volume of letters and newspapers transmitted within the confines of the Colony has grown from 13,997 in 1901 and 43,463 in 1902 to 46,624 in the year under review.

63. The parcels post alone shows a further falling off in volume. The figures for 1902 showed that 1,119 parcels were received (of which 375 came from the United Kingdom and 744 from abroad) and 856 were despatched (namely, 375 to the United Kingdom and 481 to other places). The figures for 1903 are 932 inwards (399 from the United Kingdom) and 656 outwards (336 to the United Kingdom).

The figures with regard to Great Britain are practically unchanged, a decrease of 39 despatched being counterbalanced by an increase of 24 received. But this public convenience would be much more utilised if it were not for the difficulties, through want of a bank, in making remittances by way of draft. The present total is absurdly small in comparison with the volume and advance in other branches, and it will remain so as long as the cost of sending parcels to England is nearly twice as great as to France. At present a parcel of 11 lbs. in weight goes to France for Rs.1.80, whereas the charge on the same parcel to England is Rs. 3.30. The local post office receives only 50 centimes or 30 cents. of a rupee on each parcel. The rest is actually paid over to the Messageries Maritimes Company whose ships carry the mails.

The decrease in the number of parcels sent abroad is accounted for by a suspension of the practice of sending mail consignments of vanilla, especially to France, by parcel post. Small holders of vanilla were deterred by the fall in price from sending their consignments and have either held them up for better prices or have parted with them to the merchants who send their produce as freight. The fall in price of vanilla is also accountable for the reduced number of parcels from France which represent those luxuries, articles de mode, which can be most easily dispensed with in bad time.

64. The money order service shows a slight increase in the value of the orders issued (from Rs.58,587 in 1902 to Rs.60,413 in 1903) and a falling off in that of the orders drawn upon the Colony (from Rs.19,610 in 1902 to Rs.16,597 in 1903). The internal service shows a steady increase. The transactions in this branch indicate generally the volume of the savings transmitted for the support of families elsewhere from those who are temporarily employed in this Colony. The figures are swelled, no doubt, by remittances against goods ordered, but the remittances where the balance of trade, especially with Bombay, has to adjusted are now mainly effected by the actual transmission of specie. The volume varies from year to year with the agricultural and industrial condition of the Colony; thus, the remittances in 1900—a prosperous year—amounted to Rs.95,373, but in the three succeeding years the figures have varied but slightly, namely, from Rs.64,302 in 1901 to 58,587 in 1902 and Rs.60,413 in 1903. The percentages stand as follows:—To India, 46 per cent.; the United Kingdom, 20 per cent.; Mauritius, 13 per cent.; France, 11 per cent.; Ceylon, 4 per cent.

65. Among improvements in the post office during the year may be mentioned—The adoption of the insurance system on letters; the erection of a sub post office at Anse Boudin on the island of Praslin; the extension of the daily service to Takamaka in the South Mahé district; and the improvement in punctuality and speed of the island service by the use of the new Government steamer "Alexandra."

66. The monthly mails to and from Seychelles were carried punctually throughout last year by steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company on payment of 2,000 francs for each call, inwards and outwards and an exemption from payment of all port dues and taxes whatsoever. This subsidy represented in 1903 cash payments of Rs.31,276, chargeable in the accounts of the Colony to the postal department, of which Rs.28,800 is paid direct to the company and Rs.2,476 to the Director-General of French Post Offices for the conveyance of the mails and parcels by weight. The company in addition received a remission of dues amounting in 1903 to a further sum of Rs.12,362.

Instances of delay in delivering of goods owing to non-shipment at Marseilles at the proper time or to over-carriage to Mauritius, the terminus of the line, were numerous.

67. There is no island service of telegraphs, but a station is established at Mahé on the cable route to Australia of the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company. The volume of business actually transacted at Seychelles is as follows:—

Year ending 31st March	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Number of cablegrams received and sent.	1,967	2,244	2,399	2,276	2,417

This Government pays to the Company an annual subsidy of Rs.15,000 (£1,000) for the maintenance of a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, under an agreement to be in force for twenty years, entered into between the Imperial Government and the company, the total subsidy amounting to £28,000 per annum. The company is not, however, a purveyor of news, but agrees to transmit news telegrams at a special rate. The Government has, therefore, to subsidize Reuter's news agency under an agreement whereby, in return for a payment of Rs.750 (£50), Reuter contracts to supply 2,500 words per mensem. This service is well rendered.

The various subsidies in connection with postal and telegraphic communication with the outside world involve an outlay of Rs.44,550 per annum; or, together with the exemptions of the mail steamers from all dues, a total cost of Rs.57,000.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

68. On the 31st December, 1903, the assets of the Colony included, in addition to cash balances amounting to Rs.52,102, investments to the value of Rs.272,534, of which Rs.70,743 represented the reserve against savings bank deposits, and the remainder, namely, Rs.201,791, lies available to provide that reserve necessary in a Colony where the revenue is liable to extraordinary fluctuations. As long as vanilla remains the staple agricultural industry of the Colony, liable from the nature of its cultivation to great variations in the quantity and quality of its crops and (owing to the limited market) to equally great variation in values, it will always be a matter of difficulty to frame estimates of revenue in advance; and a floating reserve will be required to enable the administration to preserve some equality in the annual expenditure. By way of illustration, the crop of the current year has been damaged by a prolonged and unprecedented drought, while

prices in London and Paris continue to rule very low; the purchasing power of proprietors and cultivators therefore will be greatly diminished, and the revenue based largely on its customs tariff on imports will be correspondingly low. While retrenchment has to be effected as far as it is possible, the expenditure provided in the estimates cannot be immediately reduced to correspond with the falling off in the receipts. The reserve, therefore, built up in the cycle of prosperous years will be reduced to effect an equilibrium and built up again when the seasons and prices become more favourable. Meanwhile, the depressed conditions in the cultivation of vanilla react favourably by turning the attention of planters to the many other remunerative products of the island and may tend to restore other cultivation, especially that of the coconut palm, to the attention of planters. It would add to the stability of the Colonial finances, were the products of the coconut palm, for which there is a wide and growing market, to take rank, with vanilla, as a staple resource of Seychelles.

69. The most important event in 1903 was the promulgation of the Letters Patent, dated the 31st August, whereby the King was pleased to erect the Seychelles Islands into a separate Colony, to be known and designated as the Colony of Seychelles, and to constitute the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief thereof. The Letters Patent, the Royal Instructions and the Commission constituting Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott, C.M.G., to be the first Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Council of Seychelles were proclaimed on the 9th November—the King's birthday—and Mr. Sweet-Escott took the oaths of his new office. On the same date were published three Orders in Council, namely:—

(1.) The Seychelles Legislature Order in Council, 1903;
(2.) The Seychelles Judicature Order in Council, 1903;
(3.) The Seychelles Capital Offences Order in Council, 1903.

On the same date, the Governor appointed His Honour Mr. F. A. Herchenroder to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles.

70. The erection of the Seychelles Islands into a separate Colony was received with much enthusiasm and the Governor was the recipient of a number of loyal addresses from the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, from the Roman Catholic Clergy, from the Clergy and Churchwardens of the Church of England, from the Civil Service, from the merchants, from the Local Boards for the Central District, for South Mahé and for Praslin and La Digue, from the Indian community, from the Marist Brothers, from the Agricultural Board, the Committee of Education and others.

71. The gradual development of Seychelles into a separate Colony may be opportunely traced in this connection. The islands were proclaimed a dependency of France in 1743 under the name of Mahé La Bourdonnais, then Governor of the Isle of France and Bourbon and the establishments of the French in the Indian Ocean.

In 1756, after the downfall of that great Governor, the islands received their present name after the Vicomte Herault de Seychelles, at that time Minister of Marine, the principal island retaining the name Mahé. Mahé capitulated in 1794 to Captain Newcome of H.M.S. "Orpheus," and the capitulation was renewed in 1806 to Captain Terrier of H.M.S. "Albion," but, as there was no permanent occupation, the islands were still administered by Monsieur J. B. Queau de Quincy, who had been appointed Governor in 1789 and who accepted the directions of General Decaen, Capitaine-Général of the French Establishments to the east of the Cape of Good Hope. The capitulation of the Isle of France in 1810 put an end to the French administration, and the cession of the Isle of France—which then reverted to its more ancient name of Mauritius—Rodrigues and the Seychelles to Great Britain was confirmed by the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Monsieur de Quincy still directing the local administration. The Seychelles were then administered for a long period (1815-1852) by civil agents under the direct orders of the Governor of Mauritius; the Governor's exclusive powers being in 1853 vested in the Governor in the Executive Council. In 1872 an Order in Council established a Board of Civil Commissioners and the finances of Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius: two years later, the powers of the Board were enlarged by another Order in Council; and in 1882 an Ordinance of Mauritius, entitled "The Seychelles Legislature and Judicature Ordinance of 1882," still further enlarged the powers of the Board and conferred on them the power of legislation by way of regulations, while retaining the right of the Legislature of Mauritius to pass laws for the Seychelles. An Order in Council of 1888 created the office of Administrator and constituted a Legislative Council in Seychelles. Further powers were conferred on the Administrator under Letters Patent of 1897 and 1901. Finally, by Letters Patent issued under the Order in Council of the 31st August, 1903, the Seychelles were erected into a separate Colony with a Governor and the last administrative ties with Mauritius have been severed, the only connection remaining being the right of appeal in certain cases from the decisions of the Supreme Court of Seychelles to the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

72. The gradual loosening of the control exercised by the Government of Mauritius may be traced to the period when the revenue of Seychelles became sufficient to cover the expenditure and when, owing to the overland route to India and the opening of the Suez Canal, Mauritius ceased to be

geographically on the sole line of communication with Great Britain. The ties of blood between the Colonies still exist and there still remains considerable community of interests. The Colony of Seychelles as now constituted consists of 89 islands enumerated in the Schedule of the Letters Patent, namely, 45 islands belonging to the group of Seychelles Islands; and the Amirantes Archipelago, including the African Islands (4), the St. Joseph group (8), the Poivre Islands (9), the Alphonse group (3), the Providence group (3), the Cosmeledo islands (12), and the Aldabra Islands (5). Farquhar Island and Coetivy are retained as portions of the outlying islands under the Government of Mauritius.

Outlying Islands.

73. The following islands were visited by the Visiting Magistrate during the year 1903:—Daros, Remire, Poivre, Desroches, Alphonse, Providence, Denis, Flat Island, North Island, Bird Island, Silhouette, and Frigate Island.

The Visiting Magistrate reports a marked improvement in the condition of the Outlying Islands resulting from the operation of Ordinance, No. 6 of 1902 (Outlying Islands Labour Ordinance). Master and man now recognise the value of the supervision and control exercised, and appreciate fully the benefit of being able to settle their disputes without the trouble and expense of a journey to Mahé. The Visiting Magistrate concludes his report as follows:—"Another marked improvement which has resulted from the Outlying Islands Labour Ordinance is the great decrease in the number of illegal absences from work. Formerly they were very common, but in 1903 I found they were quite the exception. . . . . The best evidence I can offer of the value of Ordinance, No. 6 of 1902, to the labourers is that, whereas prior to the existence of this Ordinance it was difficult to find men to work on the Outlying Islands, and they were discontented while there, and the work unsatisfactory, now they are so far happy and contented with their lot on the islands, that many of them offer to remain on monthly engagements after their six-monthly contract is complete."

74. The writer of this report assumed duties on the 30th May, 1904, on the promotion of Mr. E. P. Sweet-Escott, C.M.G., who on the 10th May terminated a long and successful term of office as Administrator and Governor extending from the 20th November, 1899.

W. E. Davidson,

Governor.

Government House,

Seychelles,

22nd July 1904.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF BOTANIC STATION FOR THE YEAR 1903.

I.—General Remarks.

Extension of Site.

This department was considerably enlarged during the year 1903. The grounds originally selected on Hermitage Estate have been extended so as to put them within their natural limits and to render them more accessible from the main road. A hill side was cut into two parts by the former boundary lines, and as the cultivation on Hermitage Estate is left to labourers on the half-share system, the scenery was much injured by a small plot of land, cultivated in ground provisions, which was projecting very near the roads and the plantations of the Botanic Station on the same slope of the hill. The grounds have been extended to the top of the hill and 1·03 acres has been added to the original area of the station.

Another piece of land on Hermitage Estate was originally given by the owners of this estate free of charge near the main road to build the coolies' lines. This plot of ground, separating the site of the Botanic Station from a point very near the main road, has been also added to the Gardens.

These two pieces of land, covering a total area of 2·28 acres, have been leased for Rs.100 per annum, but the original agreement has been altered and extended to 36 years instead of 18.

It is proposed to build an avenue from the main road to the Botanic Station grounds in 1904. This avenue, which will be 900 feet long and 20 feet broad, will entail a considerable amount of work, and, in the meanwhile, a right of way has been obtained from a neighbouring proprietor at the rate of Rs.15 a year, thus ensuring an easy entrance to the Botanic Station grounds.

Transfer of Crown Lands to Botanic Station Department.

All unleased Crown lands have been put under my charge, and experiments on the reafforestation of all the suitable lands have been started. The men employed in vanilla cultivation at Capucin and Audibert carry on this work of tree planting. Wood is becoming very scarce in this Colony, and it is very likely that tree planting may become as profitable an industry as any other. (100 feet of planks being worth Rs.15 to Rs.25.) The moist and warm climate of Seychelles is very suitable to forest vegetation, and it is to be recorded that seedlings of two years' growth reach and even exceed 20 feet. The Seychelles

cedar (Casuarina equisetifolia) and some varieties of Eucalypt are very promising for reafforestation purposes, whilst some valuable timber trees, such as Seychelles and Ceylon iron woods (Vateria), Takamaka (Callophyllum), Heritiera, Indian lilac (Melia), Teak, &c., are also making excellent growth.

Another extensive piece of land, known under the names of Delanos, Lavoquier, and Le Plateau, is at present being surveyed. Being situated at an elevation of about 1,500 to 2,000 feet, the reafforestation of the Colony might begin at this point. Many other small Crown lands on the summits, such as Planeau and Le Niol, might form nuclei for the extension of reafforested land.

An estate has been purchased by the Government at about 600 feet altitude and two miles from Victoria as a Sanatorium for Public Officers. In addition to a good house, pavilion, and usual out-houses it includes about 4 acres of land. Many trees of great economic value, such as mangoes, loquats, coffee, mangosteen, oranges, cocoanuts, cherimolia, peach, &c., were planted by the late proprietor.

These trees require thinning and manuring to come into bearing, the soil not being rich.

These different Crown lands being attached to the Botanic Station, and being situated at different elevations, better means have been supplied to this department for experimenting with newly introduced plants in the climates which are suitable to each of them.

For example cardamon, camphor, castilloa rubber, eucalypti, fir trees, Java almond, &c., are placed in much better natural conditions at Capucin Crown Land and Government Cottage than at the Botanic Station on the sea shore.

In Praslin the famous coco-de-mer valley is Crown land, and is kept in order by my department. Arrangements have been made this year to thin the coco-de-mer palms and to relieve them from the overhanging trees which were considerably damaging them. A path should be built from Anse Marie Louise to this Crown land so as to make it easier of access.

Mountain and River Reserves.

No mountain reserve having been kept in this Colony when the concessions of lands were granted, proprietors were asked in 1903 whether they would be willing to sell their land at reasonable rates or to give part of it to Government for reafforestation purposes. None of the proprietors would consent to grant their land free of rent, and the question of their purchase has been postponed.

Two Forest Rangers have now been appointed under the provisions of Ordinance No. 11 of 1903 to secure the proper protection of the river reserves. These forest rangers will only be able to inspect the rivers which take their rise in the vicinity of Victoria, and the sources of which are still more or less protected by the relics of the old forests.

In North and South Mahé the rivers taking their rise from denudated summits, and their sources and watersheds having been left unprotected for the last century, the question of protecting the reserves in these localities has been postponed.

Appointments of Clerk and Sergeant Forest Ranger.

The appointment in June of a clerk has considerably relieved me from the clerical work in general, and has afforded me the means of devoting more of my time to botanical, agricultural, and chemical researches, of supervising the work of the Crown lands, and of inspecting private estates when I am directed to advise planters on application from the latter.

Mr. Godley, the Sergeant Forest Ranger, when he is not employed in inspecting river reserves and reporting on applications to cut trees in these reserves, acts as an Overseer at the Botanic Station to avoid the coolies being left to themselves on days when I am engaged in works outside the Botanic Station.

Water Supply.

This question has received the attention of the Superintendent of Public Works this year, and the laboratory and the fernery have been supplied with fountain jets and necessary water. It is to be hoped that in the course of next year the high parts of the Botanic Station grounds will also be supplied with water so as to ensure the irrigation, when necessary, of the lawn and the fruit trees, plantations which cover about four acres of land.

Erection of New Buildings.

A tool shed, two rooms for the storing of the gas and other apparatuses, and a meteorological observatory were built at the end of this year.

Work of the Prison Gang.

The prisoners, numbering from four to six, worked three days a week during the first half of the year and four days a week during the remainder of the year, and were employed in works of terracing. All round the laboratory and offices several walls, some of which are 50 feet long and 10 feet high, have been built in terraces which are at present being filled in with good soil for the proper laying out of beds of flowers and shrubs. The

terrace has been placed above the projected pond near the lawn, and the landscape is much improved.

II.—Laboratory.

The following analyses have been made on behalf of the Government and of the owners of some guano islands:—

A.—Guano.

Number.	Phosphoric Acid (per cent.).
1	20·12
2	19·07
3	17·04
4	19·10
5	26·09
6	26·21
7	21·72
8	22·36
9	8·74
10	9·20
11	34·50
12	14·08
13	17·28
14	20·16

B.—Bacca.

Number.	Beaumé.	Time after expression.	Alcohol.
	Degrees.	Hours.	Per cent.
1	7	9	0
,,	6	27	0·3
,,	3	52	4·52
,,	1	76	5·20
,,	0	124	5·20
2	6	6	0
,,	5	12	0·1
,,	2	29	3·0
,,	0	51	4·55
3	7	2	0
,,	5·5	20	1·25
,,	4·5	25	2·30
,,	2	44	4·80
,,	1	50	5·15

The laboratory has been greatly improved in the course of the year. All appliances necessary for the analyses of the principal articles of diet have been purchased, the funds being

provided partly under the Botanic Station vote and partly under that for the Local Board of Health, Central District.

The exportation of Seychelles guano, although increasing steadily, does not exceed 7,000 tons a year. It is difficult to understand why the export is very small, having regard to the excellent composition of the phosphates which contain sometimes as much as 35 per cent, of phosphoric acid soluble in citrate of ammonia. Many islands, some of which are situated in the Mahé group of islands, *i.e.*, within a few miles from the harbour, have not yet been worked even for the benefit of the local planters who, as a general rule, do not make use of guano in their plantations.

In India and Ceylon bones are used by the planters (European and native) as the principal phosphatic fertilizers. Bones, however, must be steamed and crushed before being used, and the supply is limited. It would be much more advantageous for these two countries to procure Seychelles guano, which they can obtain at a much cheaper price per unit of fertilizing element. Information received from Ceylon leads one to think that the planters there are very conservative, and that they are reluctant to employ manures which they do not know. I quite understand this reluctance towards new and unknown fertilizers, but there is not a planter in both hemispheres who is not aware of the excellent properties of guano, which may be termed a classical manure. This being the case it is to be hoped that, in the future, Seychelles guano will gradually find its way to the East where similar deposits have not yet been discovered. There is no doubt that this article is not known well enough and that very few people in Seychelles, even the owners of the islands themselves, have an exact knowledge of its commercial value. A competent merchant from abroad would find a wide field of business in the trade of this guano in Seychelles.

With regard to bacca, the popular drink obtained by crushing sugar cane, the above analyses show that the beverage contains very little alcohol and that it more closely resembles a refreshing cider than an alcoholic drink. A man of average strength could drink five or six litres without being intoxicated, and it is much more beneficial to health to drink these five or six litres of bacca than a few glasses of Mauritius rum, which is made out of molasses in which all sorts of vermin are concealed. At the time when the analyses were made, the sugar canes were not ripe, and it may happen that canes more mature would yield a bacca of greater alcoholic strength. I do not think, however (and I intend continuing this study), that the percentage of alcohol will much exceed 6 or 7 per cent., *i.e.*, the percentage contained in beer. A feature, which I remarked and which is shown in the figures, is the rapidity of the fermentation of the bacca. This is due no doubt to the excellent temperature (100°F.) at which the ferments (Saccharomyees) are working. If

a distillery should be established in Seychelles very good rum could be produced both for exportation and for local consumption. It could not be produced at a cheaper price than in Mauritius, where rum is made out of the residual molasses which contain 50 per cent. of sugar and which are sold at only Rs.3 for 2 barrels of 200 litres. There is some reason to believe that the Seychelles rum, which was formerly exported with success, could be consumed even in the neighbouring colonies. This is a matter which might affect the Revenue of the Colony.

Banana.

Many new plantations of plantains have been started this year. The fruits are in great demand, especially among the African political prisoners who will pay as much as R.1.50 for a good bunch.

There are two varieties of plantain in cultivation, called locally "St. Jacques" and "Malgache" respectively. Both are tall plants, giving a bunch consisting of from four to five hands of fruits which are about 10 inches long. The St. Jacques variety produces bigger fruits and all the clusters of the flowers which become hands seem to be composed of female flowers, as there is no flower left unopened at the end of the stalk. The cultivation of plantains seems to be well understood by the planters, except that no selection is made for propagation and that any sucker seems good enough for planting. Far better results would be obtained if large suckers, six months old and 10 inches across at the base, were selected after being cut down to within 12 inches of the bulb before planting. An eye at the side of the sucker should in all cases develop into the first plant of the clump. If the sucker itself develops and produces a bunch, the latter is poor and the clump suffers in consequence.

Pruning also is not practised in Seychelles. It is, however, a good practice to allow only three suckers to grow by the side of the mother plant and to prune in such a way as to leave a difference of four months in the age of each of the suckers which are left growing.

Cacao.

The plants of Forastero cacao, introduced from Ceylon, are doing well both at the Botanic Station and on some estates where cacao cultivation is in favour. The planters of this Colony having been accustomed to deal only with the Caracas cacao, which is not able to withstand the canker disease, planters in general seem to have abandoned this very productive cultivation which is well adapted to the climate and soil of Seychelles. The difference between the two varieties of cacao lies principally in the colour of the pod, which in the Caracas is always red, while in the Forastero it is green, reddish or yellowish green, yellow or red. The seeds are round and white in the Caracas, and in the Forastero most of the seeds are flat

and purple. Some Forastero cacao pods contain both white and purple seeds, but these pods are supposed to be borne by hybrid varieties.

Planters should not be deterred by the canker disease, which is kept in check in Ceylon by simply clearing as much shade as possible and excising the cankered bark. The diseased tissue is then burnt on the spot or buried in the ground with a sprinkling of lime on top. The trees are at the same time treated by Bordeaux mixture as an auxiliary means of treatment, with a view of checking the spreading of the fungus and of reducing the ultimate cost of bark excision

The Forastero cacao withstands this disease, and I see no reason why this variety should not be cultivated on a great scale in Seychelles.

Capucin (Northea Seychellana).

This iron-wood tree, which has been described as reaching only 50 feet high, in reality reaches far greater proportions, especially in the very few patches of virgin forest which are scattered about on the heights of Silhouette island. It gives, on tapping, a milk which exudes freely. A few young trees in Mahé (all the big trees having been felled) were tapped on a rainy day with the following results:—

Number.	Diameter in inches.	Number of wounds.	Quantity of milk.
			C.C.
1	5	1	5
2	10	1	10
3	8	1	40
4	8	1	25
5	10	1	20
6	5	1	15
7	6	1	10
8	10	1	25
9	10	1	55
10	5	1	15
11	6	2	30
12	7	1	40
13	5	1	15
14	8	1	70
15	5	1	10
16	14	5	85
17	8	1	15
18	12	2	75

One-half of the milk was coagulated on heating and the other half by evaporation to dryness. Both samples have been forwarded to the Imperial Institute in order to ascertain their commercial value, if any.

It is a great pity that this interesting tree no longer exists in any considerable quantity in Seychelles, because its wood, like all ironwoods of the same family, is as valuable as steel for building houses and especially for conveying water.

I have seen a plantation of young trees, made at La Misère by Brother Lucien, of the Roman Catholic Mission, about ten years ago. Although the soil is very poor in this locality some specimens have reached 30 feet high. In presence of these results an attempt to start a regular plantation of this handsome and useful tree would be justified.

Cinnamon.

This plant which was introduced into Seychelles, probably by Poivre 100 years ago, is the same as the one which is cultivated in Ceylon, contrary to the opinion of many persons who have visited Seychelles. It has spread all over Mahé and is still being spread abundantly by birds, especially by the black mynahs, which are very fond of its oily fruits.

The soil of Seychelles in many localities is exactly similar to the soils of Ceylon, and the white gravelly soils composed of 98 per cent. quartz, which are so common in this Colony, are precisely the soils in which the best cinnamon is grown in Ceylon. In these soils and other poor soils there is not much scope for the cultivation of plants other than cinnamon, the produce of which might be of some assistance to many planters. Regular plantations of cinnamon are made in Ceylon in the following way:—

Nursery.

Beds are laid out in a stiff marshy soil. The Singhalese workmen then lay on the ground a board of light wood pierced with holes three inches in diameter and six inches apart, in which 12 seeds are placed after being washed and dried. The board is then removed and the seeds buried lightly in the soil. A clump germinates and when the young seedlings are about six inches high, after from six months to one year's time, a square ball of earth is cut all round the plants and the whole is removed to the field and the seedlings are planted six feet apart. A stool is thus formed and after three years the first crop is obtained followed by a secondary one six months later.

Weeding.

When the main crop is gathered, the soil is spread out, the subsoil thrown on the stools, and the holes formed are filled with weeds and prunings. This operation costs about Rs.4 per acre.

Pruning.

When there are too many shoots, some are removed, the lower branches of those remaining are cut down, and the stumps of the stems previously cropped are cut and broken by a double cut and by blows made by the handle of a knife, with a view of bringing about the formation of new buds. Pruning costs about Rs.2.25 an acre.

Harvesting.

At the end of April or in May, when the S.W. monsoon sets in, a flush comes out and three weeks after, when the buds come to maturity, the main crop is gathered and lasts until September. In November, when the N.E. monsoon brings the rain, a new flush is produced and again after three weeks the secondary crop is made.

The coolies go in lines and cut down the necessary sticks, care being taken that too young sticks are not removed; sticks which are becoming brown and are about a year old are the best. One man will cut and transport 150 sticks, which he can peel and cure in two days. When the operation of pruning is completed, the bad shoots which have become very coarse on account of too heavy notching are cropped and turned into "chips."

Scraping.

When the bark is coarse and hard, women are employed first to scrape off the outer dark skin with a curved knife (crescent-shaped) and then to hammer the bark off with a cudgel. When the bark is fine they scrape it off with a knife.

The scrapings are used sometimes for burning in cocoanut fields where a pungent smoke is required for the destruction of insects.

Peeling.

This operation is done by men with a special knife, having a projecting tooth, which serves to detach the bark from the wood.

If the sticks are not worked in the season stated above, they will not peel—the cambium not being active enough to allow a separation of the bark. The pieces of bark when detached are placed one inside the other, packed away in a corner, and covered with a wet gunny bag for fermentation until the next day.

Quilling.

The same men then put the pieces of bark on a plank and place the smaller inside the bigger one so as to form a semi circle. All pieces projecting higher than half the circle are cut off with scissors and also placed inside. The pieces of bark

are thus placed end to end and one inside the other so as to extend to three feet long. A special stick is used to measure the length of the quills and to lift them up gently without breaking them.

Curing.

During two days the quills are dried in the sheds on coconut coir ropes stretched at six feet from the ground; the projecting pieces are again put inside and the quills are rolled by the hand over the plank.

Drying.

The quills are placed on a platform made of palm or bamboo lattes at three feet from the ground and dried in the sun during 1½ to 2 days according to the weather.

Sorting.

The quills are brought back to the shed and sorted into three sizes:—

Finest	No. 1	...	20 to 30 quills (uniform) to a lb.
	No. 2	...	15 to 16 „
	No. 3	...	10 to 12 „

A special sorting shelf is employed, divided into compartments by means of coir ropes on which the quills are placed horizontally.

Baling.

100 lbs. of quills are baled in gunny or thick cloth and despatched to Colombo.

Curing of Chips.

The chips are made and used by women who can work only 10 to 12 lbs. a day.

Yield.

An acre yields about 200 lbs. of quills per annum when properly cultivated. The quills are worth 55 cents a pound, and the chips 8 cents. The latter and the firewood obtained from the sticks yield about Rs.5 an acre.

CITRONELLA AND LEMON GRASS.

These two grasses are largely grown in Ceylon and could find room in this Colony where they thrive well. Two of the best Ceylon varieties have been introduced and are growing at the Botanic Station. The citronella oil is sold at 11½*d.* per lb., and the cost of production amounts to 2*d.* Lemon grass oil, worth 10*d.* per ounce, has much increased in value lately, owing to

its containing a large proportion of citral (75 per cent.) which is so much employed in the manufacture of ionone and artificial violet.

Both these plants are cultivated in Ceylon on ridges two feet aside and bearing three rows of plants at one foot distance in the line. The ridges are six feet apart from centre to centre. In six months' time the first crop is cut with a sickle and during two years four crops are made per annum. The cut grass is tied in bundles and brought to the factory, where it is put into an ordinary cylinder into which a current of steam is admitted at the bottom. Oil and water vapour escape into a condenser and are separated by means of a florentine vase. A cylinder seven feet high and nine feet in diameter containing 75 bundles of grass yields 12 to 24 bottles of oil according to the weather. In dry weather more grass can be put into the cylinder. Lemon grass yields a smaller quantity of oil which darkens on keeping. Both oils are filtered and exported in bottles.

Cinnamon oil from leaves and chips can be obtained by a similar process.

Coconuts.

I have visited many islands since last year and examined carefully many coconut plantations which are suffering from what is termed locally "the disease." I have noticed about a dozen of different coleoptera besides the black beetle (Onyctes Rhinoceros) which are attacking the trees at the "collar" and in the leaves, to the widest extent. Some specimens of these insects have been forwarded to the Imperial Institute for identification. This serious attack of insects on coconut trees reminds me of the same damage done to the nutmeg trees in the Straits Settlements. In both cases the attack is begun by a very small beetle (probably of the Scolytidae family) and is then followed by the invasion of other beetles of the Longicorn and other families of coleoptera. I am not sure that these beetles are the only cause of the disease in the coconut plantations, because insects as a rule, and especially coleoptera, prefer living in dying or diseased tissues of plants than on healthy trees. It is noticeable that in the Straits Settlements the small beetle attacking the nutmeg trees has done great damage only after 40 years of cultivation in the same soil. The disease appeared for the first time in this Colony in 1860 in plantations made in 1820, and it is curious enough to record that the new plantations started by the Chinese after the first one had disappeared are now suffering from the same disease, 40 years after. Are we not in presence of an example in both cases of the trees being planted in poor soil (in both Seychelles and the Straits the soil is of granite origin and therefore poor in some extent) and suffering after a time of special physiological weakness which prepares the ground for an attack of beetle. I am inclined to think that this is the case, because the coconut

plantations in Seychelles which suffer to a greater extent are those which are made in poorer soils. In many islands when the soil is better the plantations suffer less, but perhaps in these islands the balance of nature has not been destroyed to the same extent by means of bush fires, &c. Taking into account the difficulty of labour in Seychelles it is impossible to think of eradicating the disease by burning the dead woods in which the beetles breed. A coconut plantation of 500 or 600 acres cannot be treated all over, and there is no estate where vanilla is not cultivated to some extent amongst the coconut trees, and in the cultivation of the former plant trees are lopped periodically to admit the sun, thus creating in the dead wood left on the ground constant breeding places.

The only possible remedy lies in the careful selection of resisting plants for propagation. In many plantations I have seen trees which completely withstand the disease and which are curiously bearing enormous crops amidst other trees which are dying. It is first from these coconut trees that nuts should be selected for planting new grounds, and secondly I also advise that nuts from Ceylon and other colonies be imported as new blood. I also recommend that when coconut plantations are badly infested the trees should be replaced, as they are dying off, by rubber trees when the soil is suitable. These two plants have in many cases the same requirements with regard to soil and exposure. Of course another remedy can be found in properly cultivating the coconut trees and in manuring them, because it is a fact that healthy trees suffer very little from attacks of insects. A special mention must be made of the plantations which have been left to themselves, on estates where vanilla at a time has proved more profitable and when trees of all kinds grow under the shade of the coconut trees or overhang them. It is admitted as a fact that shade trees not only cause much damage in shading plants which require full exposure for their growth, but also are very prejudicial on account of their roots, which interfere with the roots of the cultivated plant. It must be remembered in Seychelles that coconuts cannot also be planted at less than 25 feet apart, and that plantations in which the trees are planted at 12 and 16 feet apart should be thinned. If a shade tree is prejudicial to coconut trees for the above reasons, the shade of a coconut tree is also prejudicial to other coconuts. That is why a distance of 25 feet is necessary and also why it is useless to plant young seedlings in a plantation which is not absolutely bound to disappear. The life-time of a coconut tree is very great and I know trees in Seychelles which are nearly a century old and which are still in full bearing. When the soil is not suitable to a coconut plantation, trees disappear after 20 or 25 years, and this is why planters have adopted the rule of planting young seedlings in all their plantations, the young trees after 10 years' time coming into bearing when the first ones have disappeared until they disappear themselves in 10 or 12 years. It is

questionable whether it is not more profitable to treat properly a regular plantation, to give the necessary manure to the trees, than to have these kinds of short living plantations which by their nature are exposed to all sorts of disease. When two generations of trees are seen to be suffering from the same diseases in a short time, it is clear that the plantations should be treated in a better way or abandoned for the cultivation of other plant. Coconut trees when well treated can bear 100 nuts per tree per annum. The sickly trees well known in Seychelles do not bear more than 25.

Coco-de-mer.

The exportation of double coconuts from Seychelles reaches about 300 per annum. These curious fruits are principally exported to India. They should be made known much more in the East (Java, Malay Peninsula, China, Philippines, Australia, Cuba, &c.), where they could be employed in sugar factories for the extraction of sugar from the centrifugals. By cutting the two lobes lengthwise, a nut can be made to produce two very large bowls, each capable of containing 5 to 10 lbs. of sugar. These bowls are extensively used in Mauritius for this purpose and cannot be replaced by metallic vessels which injure the copper wire of the centrifugals or are soon oxidised. The coco-de-mer bowl is besides extremely light and durable.

The nuts also contain a very hard kernel which has been sent home for report as to the possibility of using it as the other vegetable ivory-like substances in different manufactories. It is difficult to find a bigger mass of vegetable ivory than the one which is contained in the coco-de-mer nut.

Coffee.

The climate and soil of Seychelles are very favourable to the cultivation of coffee, and we notice that the importation of this article from India and Aden amounts to 40,000 kilos., whilst Seychelles coffee is not exported. The imported coffee is composed mostly of very low-grade coffee, being the refuse of Brazilian and Indian coffee. It is sold at the same price as the local coffee, viz., 25 cents a pound.

Good Moka coffee imported from Aden is sold at Rs.2 a kilo. and the same coffee can be produced in Seychelles, whilst the Liberian coffee is so abundant in this Colony that a great part of the crop is not gathered, and left to rot in the fields.

The coffee disease which is prevalent in Seychelles does not injure the Liberian coffee, and it can be kept in check on the Arabian coffee trees by the periodical use of Bordeaux mixture. The other diseases of the coffee trees which are so injurious to these plants all over the world, except in some parts of the West Indies, have not made their appearance in this Colony.

In Java it is recommended to plant coffee trees under the shade of dadaps (Erythrinas) or Albizzias, the production being sometimes greater in open plantations but always irregular, and the death of many trees occurring through over-production, diseases, or desiccation of the oil. Liberian coffee in Java is also not topped, and trees of 40 to 50 feet high in full bearing from top to bottom are often to be seen. The suckers are removed before blossoming. No pruning of the branches is made, but the trees are manured once a year.

In this Dutch Colony and in some other parts of the Malay Archipelago Liberian coffee is cured by means of very improved methods and expensive machinery. The beans are pulped by the wet process, fermented, dried in special drying machines, peeled and hulled to remove the silver skin. They are then sized and left in big heaps in sheds at 150°F. for months until a special straw colour is obtained. Black and dotted beans are sold locally.

Instead of the special machinery which is required to cure the Liberian coffee, a much more rapid process is adopted by some planters in the Malay States, and the price they obtain is about Rs.20 a cwt., whilst their expenses for curing amount to Rs.7.50.

The berries are pulped, washed and, without any fermentation, are put into a very simple drying house, consisting of a building 60 feet long and 24 feet wide, divided on the ground floor into compartments, each of which is supplied with a fire box in the centre. The fire boxes are merely holes dug in the ground, lined with bricks, and provided with fire bars on which the firewood or charcoal rests. The walls of these compartments are constructed of ordinary planking. They should be about 12 feet high. The floor of the upper chamber, which extends the whole length of the building, usually consists of perforated iron plating on which the coffee beans are spread. Such plating, one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, can be obtained from the Ligerwood Manufacturing Co. at Soorabaia (Java). It costs £45 for a drying house of the size quoted here. The upper story is also planked in and the roof is made of palm thatch with openings for ventilation and to allow the hot air to escape. The floor of this story should be made of good strong beams, having regard to the great weight of the coffee it has to carry, and the plates themselves are laid on small rafters spaced one foot apart. The temperature of the drying house should not exceed 150°F. and the beans should be turned over every now and then. After 36 hours the coffee is dry enough to be hulled.

With this process, which has been shown to me by a planter of great experience in Selangor, the whole plant for the machinery amounts to a drying house (Rs.1,800), a pulper and a hand huller, which can be obtained at Colombo (Messrs. Walker and Sons) for Rs.112.

Limes.

The lime industry is so important at Montserrat as to supply more than half the total exports of the island. This fruit grows with such rapidity in Seychelles that it is not rare to see trees blossoming two years after planting.

From experiments carried on in Dominica, 200 barrels of limes per acre are often obtained with an average yield of 120 barrels. From a barrel of limes seven to eight gallons of juice are obtained, and the juice is exported either raw or in a concentrated form. The latter is boiled down to a density of 10 to 1, *i.e.*, 10 gallons of raw juice to one of concentrated. At Montserrat seven gallons only of raw juice are boiled down to one of concentrated. The raw juice is worth in London 10*d.* per gallon, and the concentrated £12 per pipe of 108 gallons.

The produce per acre in Seychelles may amount to 1,000 gallons of juice, and leaves a margin of profit which is not inferior to the net produce of many other local industries.

An abstract from an article by the Hon. F. Watts, showing the different process employed in the West Indies in the manufacture of lime juice and citrate of lime, will be reproduced and translated for the benefit of the planters of this Colony who may like to go in for this industry, in which there are many by-products such as essential oil of limes, green and pickled limes, which can also be exported.

Nutmeg.

This spice tree is of island origin (Banda) and thrives in the deep laterite soils of Seychelles. The trees should be manured in order to obtain big fruits, the value of which is increasing steadily owing to diseases in the principal centre of production. The Chinese use 20 lbs. of refuse fish or shells of prawns, per tree, or they dig round each tree per annum a cart-load of cow manure.

I have seen trees coming into bearing in seven years in Seychelles. I advise all planters to have a certain number of these trees on their estates. Their only treatment is manuring when sufficient male trees (20 per cent.) are left in the plantation. As the trees are planted 30 feet apart, about 50 trees go to the acre, therefore the manuring is not so expensive as it may seem at first sight.

The curing of the different parts of the fruit, which I have been shown in Penang, is very simple.

1°. The husks are either salted and used as a stimulant to thirst or boiled with sugar so as to form a jelly.

Mace.

Dried in the sun in flat baskets or between two sheets of paper; these envelopes are worth about three shillings a pound.

Nuts.

The nuts are dried slowly on hurdle frames over a wood fire during two months. Every day they are exposed to the sun for an hour or two before being taken back to the drying house. When perfectly dry they can be cracked and shelled. If they are shelled too soon the seeds will not keep as they are attacked by special beetles which are very fond of them. They are packed in casks which have been smoked inside and coated with lime water.

The seeds can yield by expression on heating about 28 per cent. of oil which sets like butter on cooling.

Oranges.

Many attempts have been made to export oranges from Seychelles to Mauritius or to Aden. Much remains to be done in this direction, as, generally, the fruits are not cured before packing and lose much of their good appearance in the ports of destination. The fruits should be picked three or four days before packing and laid out in single layers until all the moisture has disappeared. The rind becomes hard by this treatment and the fruits are less exposed to ultimate insect pests and fungi diseases. The packing should be carried on in wrapping all the fruits in silk paper before placing them in the well ventilated boxes.

The oranges of Seychelles can be much improved by manuring the trees. A complete fertilizer should be employed, as nitrogen alone produces an exuberant growth of wood and foliage and a coarse fruit of bad keeping capacity, whilst phosphoric acid and potash alone produce too many and too small well flavoured and aromatic fruits.

The following formula has been recommended in the journal of the Horticulture Society:—

—	Ks.
Nitrate of soda...	1·530
Superphosphate	1·230
Chloride of potassium ...	0·246
Sulphate of lime	1·025
Sulphate of iron	0·410

per young tree per annum.

A few selected orange trees have been received at the botanic station this year as a present from Admiral Sir A. W. Moore. They will in time be used for grafting the local varieties.

Pepper.

Another plant which seems well adapted to the red laterite and poor soil of Seychelles is pepper. The Chinese are very skilled in growing this creeper and some Seychelles planters may be interested in reading the following remarks which I have made whilst visiting a few plantations in the Straits Settlements last year.

Cuttings should be taken from the top of a bearing vine, as those from running shoots will never produce fruit. When the cuttings are grown to the top of the dead post, 10 to 12 feet high, they are brought down to the soil and curled round the post in a trench. The shoots which then grow from each nod of the vines give a much better fruiting surface.

It is better to grow pepper on dead posts than on dadap trees (a Chinese method) which require constant lopping and which, besides preventing the sun from having access to the vines, take a certain amount of nourishment from the soil.

Pine-apples.

1. *Remarks.*

Except in the outlying islands, where the arable soil is more or less mixed with deposits of guano, there is not much room left in this Colony for the cultivation of herbaceous plants which require good soil, cheap labour, and much manure during the short time of their growth. In the principal islands, where the soil has been already exhausted, it is only possible to cultivate those herbaceous plants which are not benefited by large quantities of manure and which grow in poor soils. The pine-apple is one of the only plants which seem to be adapted to these special agricultural conditions, its cultivation being as a rule more dependent on the weather than on the soil and its treatment.

Owing to the geographical position of the Seychelles Islands in that part of the hemisphere where pine-apples are not grown for exportation, it has already been ascertained that Seychelles pines will meet very little competition on the London market during the principal fruiting season, which is November, December and January.

2. *Varieties.*

Amongst the wild and cultivated varieties of Seychelles only one is worth being grown for exportation. It is called

locally "Anana Maingard" and has been imported from Mauritius. Its size, shape and flavour are perfect, although its colour is not golden enough, and it compares favourably with the West Indian smooth Cayenne to which it is nearly allied, if not similar. All the other varieties will not, at present, produce those fancy fruits which only are required for exportation to distant countries. A good deal of competition will be met with if an attempt is made to export the small fruits locally known as Victoria pine.

The following varieties have been successfully introduced from the West Indies, Ceylon, Penang, Mauritius, and Singapore, where pine-apples are extensively cultivated, and suckers from the best kinds will be available at the botanic station in the course of this year:—

La Brea—West Indies.
White Dominica—West Indies.
Maipuri—West Indies.
Bull head—West Indies.
Queen—West Indies.
Black Antigua—West Indies.
Queen—Penang.
Kew pines—Ceylon and Singapore.
Victoria—Mauritius.
Queen—Mauritius.
Honey—Mauritius.

3. *Planting.*

The ground selected should be friable, sandy loam, and red laterite, mixed with pebbles of quartz or ironstone, as convenient, but the former are preferred, especially on flat ground. The bushes when removed should not be burnt, the soil should be carefully weeded, and all the vegetable matters dug into the soil in lines four feet apart. Between the rows of weeds the soil is loosened six inches deep and after a few days when the grass is decaying the soil is planted on the flat ground. It is advisable to dig trenches for drainage 2 feet wide and 18 inches deep and to divide the land into beds 12 feet wide, with a path 4 feet wide separating the beds. Suckers should be chosen amongst the leaves of the parent plant. They are the best off-shoots for propagation; the slips at the base of the fruit and the crown of the top of the fruit are not so good, being slower in growth and not so easily available. Distances of three feet between the plants and four feet between the lines are about the best in a wet country like Seychelles. In Singapore the Chinese cultivate two varieties which are nearly allied to the Seychelles Maingard, one is thorny and the other thornless. The former produces a

blackish shining fruit which is preferred in preserve factories and the latter, a yellowish green fruit, which is more easily cultivated. Both are planted 2½ feet from each other in lines 6 feet apart. The suckers, which must be heavy and 8 to 16 inches long, should be fixed firmly and deeply into the ground with a trowel after the lower leaves have been stripped off to allow the roots to sprout easily.

4. *Cultivation.*

This plant is an aristocrat which does not like to share the ground with other plants. For this reason the ground should be kept clean all the time and the plant supplied with the food which is accepted, such as blood, guano, sulphate of potassium or kainit. During the first year the soil should be continually weeded and the above manure dug into it three or four times so as to make 1 cwt. of blood, 1 cwt. of guano and ¼ cwt. of sulphate of potassium or 1 cwt. of kainit per annum. It is fortunate that the Seychelles guano is accepted by this plant which has such a great repugnance to phosphatic fertilizers. After one year's growth no fertilizer should be given to the plant, and, after the crop is over in 18 months, the chemical manures should be applied again to the root sucker left to form the ratoon crop.

5. *Gathering and Packing.*

The fruits must be gathered when they have reached their full size (this size varies according to the season of the year). They will then mature completely during transit. As the ripening is continued in the crates, the cells of the fruit remain in activity and must be supplied with the air necessary to their functions. The fruits must be cut at least 24 hours before packing, and dried to prevent fermentation. A single layer should be placed in the crate, the butts and crowns alternating, and the packing material employed should be absolutely dry. Wood shaving, banana trash and Indian corn husks are good packing materials. The fruits should be packed firmly but should not bear a single trace of injury before exportation.

6. *Insects and Diseases.*

The mealy bug is the only pest which I have noticed up to now, but as this insect attacks that part of the leaves which surrounds the fruit, it is difficult to get red of it by spraying with insecticides. It is better to adopt preventive measures by dipping the suckers into a tobacco decoction (1 lb. of stems in 2 gallons of water) before planting, and to spray the other plants attacked by the mealy bug in the neighbourhood.

The "blight" disease, which is caused by a fungus attacking the leaves, should, if it makes its appearance, be treated at once by burning every part of the diseased plant and applying Bordeaux mixture to the ground where it stood.

7. *Preserve Factories.*

Singapore Process.

The establishment of such factories is convenient when pine-apples are cultivated in order to utilize the fruits which cannot be exported or sold for local consumption. They must be supplied with tin-box-making machines which can be purchased from Singapore or Colombo for about Rs.6,000, including boiler. The cost of the tins is ten times greater than the price of the fruits in Singapore.

Transport.

The fruits are brought to the factories in bullock carts and sold at about 3 dollars a hundred (Rs.3.60). Those that are of a dark shining appearance are preferred to the light-coloured ones, especially when the latter show discoloured patches brought by fungus diseases.

Peeling.

The fruits are left 24 hours with their crowns which have been more or less shortened, to facilitate their transport. When the crowns are removed, fermentation sets in rapidly—in less than 6 hours' time, according to the statement made by a planter in Singapore. The outer skin is removed by means of a well-known Chinese knife and thrown away; the thinner skin is kept for cattle.

Preparation of the Fruit.

The pines when peeled are either left entire (whole pine) or cut into slices and "chunks" (2 × 1½ inches). When left entire, the central core is removed by means of a tin tube worked in the way of a punch and the outside sometimes furrowed in a screw line. The acridity of the juice obliges the Chinese to use rubber gloves during this preparation of the fruits.

Washing and Tinning.

The different pieces of the pines are then put into tins containing the juice expressed from other fruits with or without addition of sugar. The sugar solution registers 24 degrees Beaumé. The tinning is made without sugar when the fruits are intended to be exported to France or to other countries

where the sugar industry is protected by an import duty. In France, whole pines are preferred to "chunks" or "slices."

Soldering.

The tins are then soldered very rapidly by using a turning table and irons heated by gas or charcoal fire.

Boiling.

This operation is conducted in hollow copper or wooden pans heated by steam pipes. The heating is maintained during one hour for the medium size pines, a little less for small and a little more for big fruits, until the cover of the tin is swollen up and seems to burst. Then the tins are removed, their covers bored to allow the gases to escape, they are soldered again rapidly and boiled 10 minutes more.

Packing.

Two dozen tins are placed in chests of light wood (shorea) and each of them bears a very striking label.

RAMIE.

The attention of the planters has been called by different persons to the following fibre plants this year:—

1° Ramie, 2° Cotton, 3° Kapok. We think that the cultivation of cotton, which is already well known in this Colony, will give better financial results so long as the British Cotton Growing Association will so liberally assist the cotton growers in the Empire.

A circular on the improved methods of cotton cultivation has been published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, and abstracts from this pamphlet will be reproduced at an early date for the benefit of the residents of the guano islands, where cotton is said to produce abundant crops without interruption during 20 years.

Ramie also is worth cultivation, but this plant has not yet emerged from the experimental stage outside China and Japan, where labour is cheap and very clever. The guano islands will also prove suitable for the cultivation of this plant, provided potassic manures are supplied to obtain abundant and good fibres.

Kapok should be collected all over the place where the trees grow wild. The low price of this article scarcely permits their being regularly planted.

Rubber.

Rubber.—The 2,000 para rubber plants delivered by the Botanic Station to different planters and planted on Crown lands in November and December, 1902, have made excellent growth, and the demand for these plants is steadily increasing. The climate of Seychelles is so favourable to these rubber trees that, in spite of many mistakes made in planting them out, they are thriving in most cases. The best specimens I have been invited to see are those which I recommended to plant in a marshy land where formerly the cultivation of rice was carried on. They measure 12 to 14 feet high and 4 inches circumference at the base after one year's growth. These plants were, however, planted out at a time when the marsh in question was still undrained and when they could not be subjected to a proper weeding. It was only after having noticed such a resistance to adverse conditions of growth that the planter referred to started taking the necessary precautions for the proper treatment of the plants. There are a great many of these marshes in the Seychelles islands, some of which are several hundreds of acres in extent and all of them left uncultivated. In other soils, in the valleys of Mahé for example, the growth of the rubber trees has not been so good, the specimens I have noticed being more slender, although sometimes of the same height. In both these soils para rubber cultivation has proved a great success. It is only in the poor soils of Seychelles, where cassava cultivation preceded by bush fires has caused all the humus and other soluble constituents to be washed out and destroyed, that the growth of the rubber trees has been insufficient to make their cultivation pay in the long run. These soils are not suitable to any other cultivated plant, unless properly treated and manured, and it is a mistake to have planted them out in rubber trees in spite of the extreme hardiness of these latter plants.

The *Castilloa elastica* introduced from Ceylon are only 2 feet high after 8 months' growth at the Botanic Station. They are decidedly inferior to para rubber trees on the seashore, but they have made better and quicker growth on Capucin Crown land at 1,400 feet elevation.

Ficus elastica.—The plants introduced from Java are only 3 feet high 8 months after having been planted out in Victoria. They look very healthy and hardy, but it seems to me that they require better soil than para rubber.

Funtumia elastica.—A few plants introduced from Gold Coast and from Singapore are about 5 feet high and seem very vigorous. The habit is, however, bushy up to now, but they are only about 8 months old.

A species of *Tabernaemontana* was introduced from Zanzibar, where it is indigenous, and planted at the Botanic Station

about eight months ago. It has flowered already. This plant, however, is said to produce only an inferior gutta percha.

Vanilla.

A vote of Rs.1,000 has been granted to the Botanic Station for experiments on the manuring of this plant in 1904. It is proposed to build cemented basins provided with drainage pipes at the bottom, and to plant the vines on hard-wood tripods in the basins placed in series of eight in order to compare the influence of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash on the growth of the previous orchid. In building 48 basins, the study of the root system of the orchid will at the same time be made both on ordinary soil and on orchid soil. In both cases the experiments will be conducted at an elevation of 1,500 feet, where vanilla can be fully exposed to the sun, in order to avoid the influence of shade trees which would absorb a great part of the manure given to the orchid.

Sale of Plants.

The total number of plants sold in 1903 amounts to 9,345 seedlings and cuttings, besides 511 plants which were delivered free of charge for planting on Government land. The demand for plants has exceeded the supply by 32,000, and it is to be hoped that better arrangements will be made in 1904 to meet the requirements of the planters. The principal difficulties which are experienced in this connection are the suspension at sudden intervals of the steam communication between Colombo and Seychelles, which stops the introduction of fresh seeds from that Colony, and the limited labour force of the Botanic Station, which does not allow extensive nurseries being planted.

Action will be taken early in 1904 by Government to introduce the seeds, especially rubber, cacao, nutmeg, cola and coconuts, which are in great demand at the Botanic Station, orders having been booked for 43,500 plants at the end of 1903.

The demand for ornamental shrubs and foliage plants is also increasing, especially amongst the European members of the community.

Exchanges of plants and seeds have been made in the course of this year with—

1. Mauritius, Pamplemousses Gardens.
2. Ceylon, Peradeniya Gardens.
3. Singapore, Botanic Gardens.
4. Durban, Botanic Gardens.
5. Penang, Waterfall Gardens,

and with private persons in British East Africa and Lourenço Marques.

New Agricultural Prospects.

The relative prosperity of Seychelles during the last 20 years has been dependent upon the cultivation of vanilla to which the climate and soil of this Colony are very favourable. During the last three or four years a severe blow has been inflicted on this industry by the present cheap production of vanillin prepared from eugenol, the substance to which oil of cloves owes its characteristic odour, and by a steady increase in its production in many part of the world where until recently its cultivation was not undertaken. In the United States, Paris and London, prices have shown a decline within the last 18 months of about 50 per cent., but it must not be lost sight of that the enormous quantity of vanilla produced during 1903 has nearly all been absorbed. At one of the last sales in London (January 22nd) 2,680 tins, mostly Seychelles, were offered and nearly all sold, showing that the demand at least shows no sign of decreasing; and that vanillin will suddenly take its place, or even that it will ever completely do so, is not to be feared.

The total abandonment of vanilla culture in Seychelles need not at the present moment be contemplated. The planters of this Colony are so experienced in its growing and preparation that it will be one of the last countries to be driven from the field by its evidently powerful rival vanillin.

However, the advisability cannot be too strongly impressed on the planters of seriously considering the replacing of vanilla, in those parts of their plantations which are suitable, by other crops less likely to suffer from the effects of overproduction and synthetic substitutes, such as cacao, rubber, coconuts, coffee, limes, nutmegs, &c. With a further increased output in many Colonies and possible additional cheapening of the substitute, it seems certain that in the future the handsome margin of profit enjoyed by the planters can no longer be looked for.

There is no doubt that many coconut plantations have been more or less abandoned or neglected in order to extend the vanilla plantations on most of the estates of Mahé. This mistake should be avoided in future, because coconuts are, amongst the articles produced in the equatorial countries, those that are in constant demand. A vanilla plantation in which a balance sheet is well kept shows that for the last 10 years the profit has not much exceeded 10 per cent. of the capital invested. In coconut plantations which are well looked after the profit is equal, if not superior.

The coconuts exported from Seychelles in their natural shape, or in the form of oil, coprah or soap, and sold for local consumption amount to 13,000,000 nuts, which, sold at Rs.1.80

per 100 nuts, represents Rs.234,000. If the coconut plantations were extended and those existing kept in order and properly manured, and the vanilla cultivation only carried on in most convenient localities, the production of Seychelles coconuts could be doubled and thus eventually counteract the loss sustained by the cheapening of vanilla.

I have seen coconut plantations which are overgrown by casuarinas and other trees. To my great astonishment some of the proprietors state that they find more profit in cutting down these trees and selling them as firewood than in continuing to cultivate the palms. This is a mistake which does not stand examination, the cost of transport of the firewood nearly absorbing the whole profit.

There are two distinct soils in the Seychelles; one, found in the guano islands, which is at present an ideal garden soil, and the other which has been an excellent soil, but is so no longer, having been exhausted by the repeated cultivation of cassava, preceded by bush fires. Many persons still recall the cultivation of rice about 30 years ago on the summits of the mountains of Mahé, which are now absolutely barren and exhibit a desolated aspect. In planting cassava on these summits where the slope reaches and often exceeds an angle of 35° with the vertical line, the soil is promptly washed out, and as cassava yields in the soil of Mahé about 5,000 lbs. produce an acre, worth R.1 the 100 lbs., it is surprising that for a few crops producing Rs.50 each an acre of land is exposed by its owner to be washed out. On the other hand the harmfulness of bush fires cannot be too much emphasized in this Colony where the soil is by its nature poor in nitrogenous and mineral constituents. As this is a matter of political economy, an attempt should be made by Government to enlighten the planters without, if possible, having recourse to special legislation.

I suppose that, amongst many planters, the belief in the beneficial action of bush fires is derived from the fact that grasses grow greener on spots were the soil has been burnt. This observation is not correct, because it is made superficially and does not cover a sufficient space of time to ascertain what becomes of the beautiful green weeds after a time when the ashes liberated by the fire have completed their beneficial action. The constituents of the ashes are found in the vegetable matters when these are left on the ground and they are absorbed gradually by the plant cultivated instead of being used at one time and partly washed out.

The statements made as regards the checking of insect pests are also not worth examination, because insects are all present everywhere in search of food and when some are destroyed by bush fires on a certain spot the surrounding area contains quite enough of them to restock the burnt land in a very short time.

The exhausted soils of Mahé cannot be used for the cultivation of plants which have many requirements of food. They should be left to tree cultivation which will prevent them from being washed out, or to those plants, such as citronella or lemon grass, pine-apples, pepper, vanilla, &c., which are more dependent for their growth on climatic than on agrological conditions.

The guano soils, on the contrary, are the best adapted for the extension of coconut plantations and for the cultivation of cotton, ramie and tobacco, which require good soil and abundant food for their rapid or continuous vegetation.

It would be useless to plant any of the latter plants in the exhausted soils which, except in certain localities where they are protected from erosion in ravines, are only suitable for tree cultivation or for reafforestation purposes. The influence of the climate is so active towards the decomposition of the granite that many soils protected by forests where humus is easily formed might become in a relatively short time adapted to cultivation again. Pending this formation of new soils the efforts of the planters should principally be directed to the guano islands, where many planting operations could be carried on with success.

R. DUPONT,

Curator, Botanic Station.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

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20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
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22	Seychelles	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
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1904.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 456.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 431.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1905.

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No. 456.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1903 *see* No. 431.)

GOVERNOR DAVIDSON to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Seychelles,
June 30, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1904, to which is annexed a report by Mr. R. Dupont, the Curator of the Botanic Station.

2. The Blue Book itself has been completed and will be forwarded by next mail.

I have, &c.,
W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

1000 Wt 23792 9/05 D & S 5 22305 A 2

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1904 amounted to Rs.383,096, a total short of the estimates for the year by Rs.73,744, or 16 per cent., and of the actual receipts in 1903 by Rs.84,572. The failure of the revenue was primarily due to two main causes, viz., the continued fall in the price of vanilla, the staple industry of the islands, and the unprecedented drought which affected the agricultural interests from February to November. The revenue for 1905 has been estimated at Rs.394,407.

2. The expenditure of the Colony in 1904 was Rs. 447,939, and exceeded the estimates for the year by Rs.9,722, but was less than that of 1903 by Rs. 68,392. The actual expenditure for 1903 exceeded the actual revenue by Rs. 64,843, and the deficit has been met by an overdraft with the Crown Agents, bearing interest at the bank rate for the time being, to be liquidated by realising the surplus balances of previous years invested in Government securities, as soon as the market affords an opportunity of sale at prices approximating to the cost of the investment. The estimates of expenditure for 1905 have been reduced to Rs.384,330

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1900	399,311	351,919
1901	486,323	401,521
1902	437,465	497,479
1903	467,668	516,331
1904	383,096	447,939

4. The revenue and expenditure of the local Boards of Health established for the Central District (town of Victoria), for the South Mahé District and the Islands of Praslin and La Digue, are now included in the general statements of revenue and expenditure. In terms of Ordinance No. 32 of 1902, the Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. These Boards, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, are composed of a number of the most prominent persons, unofficial and official, whose interests are identified with those of the respective districts,

under nomination by the Governor. Large powers of self-government entrusted to them have been wisely and satisfactorily used. The votes allocated to the Local Boards in the estimates for 1904 are as follows:—

Name of Board.	Amount.	Actual Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Central District	25,000	25,178
South Mahé	5,220	4,904
Praslin	3,000	2,254
La Digue	3,000	2,335
Total	36,220	34,671

The total working for the year shows a saving of Rs.1,559 on the grant votes assigned to the Boards; the actual expenditure presents economies to the amount of Rs.5,799 as compared with the expenditure of 1903. The grants for 1905 have been reduced to Rs.27,198.

Details of Revenue 1903 *and* 1904.

5. The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1903 and 1904:—

Head of Receipts.	1903.	1904.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	130,224 93	184,022 45
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	3,063 12	7,016 39
3. Licences, &c.	53,927 06	47,618 97
4. Taxes	67,181 91	63,110 53
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	31,640 90	24,915 60
6. Post Office	35,183 42	12,743 30
7. Rents of Government Property	15,212 30	14,924 00
8. Interest	10,294 98	9,050 05
9. Miscellaneous	20,939 46	19,695 13
Total	467,668 13	383,096 42

6. The receipts under all heads—with the one exception of harbour dues—show a serious falling off. The Customs receipts generally indicate most clearly the actual purchasing power of the community for the preceding year; and licences and the heading given as Fees of Court are the best barometer of the current state of trade. The deduction to be drawn from the serious decrease in Customs receipts is that the Colony has been overtrading on the strength of the inflated prices of vanilla in 1898 to 1900 and the large crops obtained in 1900 to 1903. These large crops have coincided with the continuous fall in the price of vanilla until it has reached a

figure little more than one-fourth of the average price secured in 1900. Trade continued on credit during 1903, despite the serious fall, until all classes of the community realised that the drop in prices was likely to be permanent. The Customs receipts for the five prosperous years—1899-1903—show an average of Rs.229,969, but the four previous years before the inflated prices for vanilla represent an average of Rs.144,951. It is probable that for the next year or two, while the planters are recovering from the drought of 1904 and are reinforcing vanilla by the development of other agricultural products, the receipts from Customs may continue to fall; consequently, in framing estimates for 1905, it has been felt prudent to look for no more than Rs.150,000 from this principal source of revenue. The remarkable falling off in postal revenue, a most variable item in this Colony, is due to the lack of orders from stamp dealers and to the suspension of postal communication with Europe through shipping strikes at Marseilles.

Details of Expenditure 1903 *and* 1904.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1903 and 1904:—

Heads of Service.	1903.		1904.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	25	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	13,613	11	13,891	08
3. Governor and Legislature	23,972	60	23,941	32
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	18,735	95	18,538	04
5. Audit Department	4,708	85	5,253	25
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	34,059	91	14,989	78
7. Legal Department	38,616	83	35,625	92
8. Police Department	40,556	97	37,739	81
9. Prison	11,637	79	11,479	95
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	31,020	81	31,446	20
11. Ecclesiastical Department	10,105	96	12,044	29
12. Education Department	29,183	89	29,186	99
13. Printing Department...	4,441	90	4,785	17
14. Post Office Department	14,064	12	10,094	71
15. Transport	747	10	903	50
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department.	16,131	53	15,570	44
17. Local Board, Central District	28,274	20	25,177	87
18. do. South Mahé	6,113	17	4,903	60
19. do. Praslin	4,430	41	2,254	37
20. do. La Digue	1,652	68	2,335	10
21. Exchange and cost of Remittances... ...	4,738	88	3,378	31
22. Miscellaneous	15,192	32	23,195	33
23. Telegraphs and Steamer Subsidies	44,550	00	38,550	00
24. Public Works Department	14,405	02	13,204	82
25. do. Recurrent	25,798	30	24,482	79
26. do. Extraordinary	64,762	76	30,150	49
Total	516,331	31	447,939	88

8. As soon as it became clear that the drought would have a disastrous effect on the crops, steps were taken to reduce the extraordinary expenditure and to effect economies in all branches of the public service, with the result that savings were effected under 134 items of the 188 under which the expenditure is distributed. But an excess of expenditure was incurred under 32 heads amounting to Rs.17,832; and provision had to be made for twelve new items, aggregating Rs.20,559, for which no provision had been made in the estimates. The larger items were for the cost of importations of Indian immigrant labour (Rs.10,000) under the heading Miscellaneous, and for purchase and transport of economic plants (Rs.4,263) in order to assist the planters to introduce new cultures, *e.g.*, rubber, cotton, nutmegs, and cola, and to improve the stock of existing plants, such as cocoanuts and cacao. All departments show some savings in working expenses, and the expenditure on public works has been largely curtailed. The results of a policy of retrenchment will be more visible in 1905, for which year the estimates of expenditure have been reduced to Rs.384,330.

The reduction under the head of Subsidies is due to the failure of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes to maintain their monthly mail service to and from Europe. The service was interrupted on two occasions by labour troubles in Marseilles, and thus only eighteen calls were made instead of twenty-four. As the arrangement with the company is not under formal contract, the Government saved a sum of 12,000 francs (Rs.7,500)—at the rate of 2,000 francs for each call—as a slight set off to the public inconvenience caused by the cessation of regular mail communication. Special arrangements were made with the British India Steam Navigation Company on the occasion of the second strike for five calls by ships of that line. On one occasion the Government had to pay £80 for the convenience, on the others the Government guaranteed a certain quantity of cargo, which the merchants of Mahé undertook to provide. The requisite freight was forthcoming, and consequently the Government incurred no liability under its guarantee.

9. The following table shows the assets and liabilities of the Colony from 1896 to 1904:—

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	
1896	15,488 01	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
1897	2,017 04	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
1898	67,436 73	" "
1899	126,426 26	" "
1900	236,513 85	" "
1901	339,762 22	" "
1902	288,323 24	" "
1903	224,910 40	" "
1904	160,007 33	" "

The Treasury balances and investments in Government securities, together with the sum of Rs.12,000 invested locally on the security of first-class mortgage on real estate under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, amounted on the 31st December, 1904, to Rs.343,341. Advances due by the Governments of the Gold Coast, the Uganda Protectorate, and Mauritius, together with the value of a remittance of Rs.10,000 in transit to the Crown Agents, and some minor items, represented a further asset of Rs.20,563, making an aggregate of Rs.372,903, or Rs.17,651 more than at the end of 1903.

The Colonial liabilities are limited to sums due to the Crown Agents (Rs.120,000), to the Government of Mauritius (Rs.4,218), to depositors in the savings bank (Rs.58,463), and to some miscellaneous items of account (Rs.30,214), the total aggregating to Rs.212,896.

The balance in favour of assets stands at Rs.160,007.

The Colony has had a cycle of five prosperous years, but it has had a very unfortunate year in 1904, and it is clear that the agricultural interests have suffered from the drought and the uncertain position of the vanilla markets, a set-back which will take years of patience and enterprise to neutralise. But the Colony is to be congratulated on the wise use to which the large revenues of prosperous years have been applied by way of permanent improvement in means of local communication by land and sea; and the advantage to the planters in developing their access to the markets and to the sea will materially assist them in their present difficulties.

Under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, loans were authorised to planters of a sum not exceeding Rs.100,000 from the surplus balances of the Colony. These loans are secured by first mortgage at six per cent. interest, repayable at the end of five years. In view of the scanty resources of the revenue it has been notified that for the present the Government cannot advance more than Rs.75,000. The advances actually paid amounted in 1904 to only Rs.12,000, but the demands have been numerous, and it proved necessary to limit the maximum to any individual to Rs.10,000. The valuations have been strictly and discriminatingly made, and the advance in no case reaches half the assessed value of any estate. In view of the absence of all local banking facilities, the curtailment of credit from Europe and the high rates, ranging from 12 to 17 per cent., on which loans are obtainable locally, the Ordinance has proved a great boon to those planters whose affairs are not hopelessly involved; and on the other hand the Government receives an adequate rate of interest and serves a purpose closely bound up with the prosperity of the community.

10. The public debt, which consists of a loan of £20,000 (Rs.300,000), negotiated in 1899, is repayable, with interest at

2½ per cent., in thirty annual instalments of £987 15*s.* 9*d.* (Rs.14,816.25), of which five have now been paid.

The market value on the 31st December, 1904, of the investment of the Government balances was £17,833 3*s.* 4*d.*, showing a recovery of nearly £700 over the quotations of a year previously. The face value of the stock, yielding a fraction over three per cent. interest, is £18,842 8*s.* 1*d.*, purchased for £18,168 18*s.* 1*d.*

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1900	980,911	1,000,911	1,036,161	1,052,211
1901	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245
1902	861,159	943,819	1,094,268	1,237,405
1903	966,641	1,024,641	825,525	968,325
1904	829,211	905,171	724,187	801,894

Imports.

12. The declared value of imports in 1904 was Rs.829,211, exclusive of specie of the value of Rs.75,960. This total is the lowest since 1896, when the imports showed a shrinkage to Rs.710,359, in consequence of the complete failure of the vanilla crop in the previous year. The highest figures recorded appear in the return for 1901 (Rs.1,149,646), following on two years of very high prices for vanilla.

Excluding specie which was drawn in most part from Mauritius by the Government in exchange for worn-out notes issued by that Colony, the goods imported were derived from the following sources:—United Kingdom, Rs.204,462, or 25 per cent.; British Possessions, Rs.457,037, or 55 per cent.; and from foreign countries, Rs.167,712, or 20 per cent., the last-named being practically confined to France and French dependencies. The proportion of imports from British possessions (practically British India) has increased by 7 per cent.; imports from the United Kingdom have fallen by 3 per cent., and from foreign countries by 4 per cent. A total value of Rs.363,303, or 44 per cent. of the total, was imported viâ the Suez Canal.

13. The following comparative table indicates the movements in trade, as regards imports with the United Kingdom, British Possessions and foreign countries (imports of specie are excluded from this table):—

Comparative Table of Imports Exclusive of Specie.

—	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom...	275,462	204,462	—	71,000
India	316,787	335,706	18,919	—
Mauritius and its Dependencies...	110,813	96,486	—	14,327
Aden	19,755	21,161	1,406	—
Zanzibar	6,179	3,011	—	3,168
Ceylon and Straits	6,052	665	—	5,387
Natal	—	8	8	—
France	219,227	158,319	—	60,908
Réunion	5,762	2,921	—	2,841
Madagascar	3,683	4,105	422	—
Glorieuse	—	130	130	—
Pondichery	—	1,715	1,715	—
Delagoa Bay	300	—	—	300
Switzerland	34	271	237	—
Germany	2,587	251	—	2,336
Total	966,641	829,211	22,837	160,267

The most marked feature in the details of British imports is the extinction of the direct trade in cotton goods. The value of cotton goods imported from England was, in 1902, as high as Rs.118,584, it fell in 1903 to Rs.64,057, and in 1904 stood as low as Rs.14,428. Iron goods, haberdashery, and spirits also fell substantially; the only increase is in the value of coal, which has increased by 50 per cent. From India there has been an increase of Rs.15,000 in the value of rice, and Rs.11,000 in the value of cotton goods. But there is an equivalent reduction in the value of rice imported via Mauritius, consequent on the better service by the British India Line direct from Bombay owing to the suspension of the French mail service.

The falling off in the value of the imports from France is caused by a diminution in value of wine (Rs.30,000), haberdashery (Rs.16,000), and spirits (Rs.14,000). The poverty of the Colony is illustrated by the falling off in these items and the loss of Rs.50,000 in the value of cotton goods from England. The preferential agreement whereby *articles de mode* and French wines are admitted on a reduced tariff in return for the admission into France of vanilla at a minimum rate for foreign products gave a spurt to trade in 1903 which has disappeared in 1904, only to revive with the return of prosperity to the Colony.

Comparative Table of Principal Imports, 1903 *and* 1904.

14. The following table furnishes a comparative statement of the principal articles imported in 1903 and 1904, and the places of origin:—

Articles.	United Kingdom.		India.		Mauritius.		Aden.		France.	
	1903.	1904.	1903	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coal	33,750	51,585	2,833	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	3,317	3,449	—	—	11,630	9,961	—	405
Cotton goods	64,057	14,428	13,703	24,335	19	430	—	178	15,027	12,598
Flour	—	—	20,835	19,125	—	1,773	1,915	1,370	1	18
Haberdashery and millinery	18,843	12,697	7,193	5,367	7,293	1,015	166	475	31,995	15,182
Iron goods	41,155	24,358	551	120	1,898	716	—	34	14,968	12,068
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	5,631	4,960	483	465	34	32	—	10	3,685	2,277
Leather, boots and shoes	3,831	3,161	601	791	79	365	30	—	6,002	3,244
Provisions	8,612	8,215	1,063	329	1,691	1,316	—	—	4,072	4,810
Rice	—	—	224,489	239,232	22,480	6,616	772	3,853	—	2
Soap	1,944	204	3,377	2,442	—	272	—	—	506	425
Spirits of all kinds	13,245	7,868	6	—	11,455	17,082	—	—	17,788	3,708
Sugar	—	—	2,698	586	41,410	41,853	365	434	—	—
Wine of all kinds	—	263	—	—	46	127	—	—	59,315	29,407
Articles de mode	—	6,187	1,913	9,167	24	87	—	1,286	7,668	23,008

Exports.

15. The declared value of exports in 1904 was Rs.724,187, exclusive of specie, which was exported to the value of Rs.77,707. The movements in specie (imported Rs.75,960 and exported Rs.77,707) practically balance each other; a check has been placed on that drain of silver to India which has in past years created local inconvenience by causing a scarcity of coin. Remittances to India when not settled by exports are now made by postal remittances. The value of exports is lower than for any year since 1891.

Comparative Table of Principal Exports for 1903 *and* 1904.

16. The declared value at the Customs House of the principal exports in 1903 and 1904, and of the places to which Colonial produce was exported, is shown in the following table:—

Comparative Table of principal Exports.

——	Cacao.		Cocoanuts.		Cocoanut Oil.		Coprah.		Guano.		Salt Fish.		Soap.		Tortoise Shell.		Vanilla	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
United Kingdom ..	Rs. 947	Rs. 2,232	Rs. 30	Rs. —	Rs. 1,293	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 1,959	Rs. 9,640	Rs. 10,500	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 13,166	Rs. 22,048	Rs. 322,655	Rs. 130,592
France	842	1,106	624	438	780	360	5,078	40,985	—	25,130	—	—	—	—	4,290	10,527	180,938	148,446
Mauritius	—	32	13,998	11,534	101,244	110,701	—	800	8,802	41,000	906	3,198	200	—	—	750	—	8,987
India	—	—	7,085	1,831	10,133	46,721	200	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zanzibar	—	—	1,207	—	8,671	—	271	—	—	—	10	—	46,015	35,996	—	—	—	—
Madagascar	—	—	392	395	19,296	8,497	—	—	—	—	224	230	10,466	20,016	—	—	—	—
Aden	—	—	2,379	2,089	10,373	5,628	120	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	350	—	—	—
Réunion	—	—	1,573	183	6,606	—	—	—	—	—	2,530	2,644	—	400	—	—	—	—
Belgium	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,000	12,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ceylon	—	—	557	—	1,983	—	213	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mombasa	—	—	—	200	—	430	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	190	—	—	—	—	8,400
Natal	—	—	1,001	1,158	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	27	—	—	—	—

17. The most striking features in the foregoing statement are the falling off of Rs.207,178 in the value of vanilla, and the increase of the value of guano by Rs.59,663, and of coprah by Rs.37,862. The impetus given to the export of guano arose from the high prices recently ruling for low grade nitrates from South America; but this source of wealth is liable to be soon exhausted, and the demand is likely to fall off owing to the changes in the market. The development in the trade in coprah is, however, a most hopeful sign, showing that planters are turning their attention to other products to supplement the vanilla industry. The excellent quality of the coprah turned out will probably secure to Seychelles a favourable position among producers.

18. Vanilla has so long held the pride of place at the head of the products of Seychelles that the history of its ill-fortune in 1904 requires special record. In actual value (Rs.300,026) the vanilla crop for 1904 realised very little in excess of the aggregate for cocoanut products (Rs.296,249). The figures over a term of ten years, during which the cultivation has been greatly extended, give an average crop of 38,476 kilos., valued at Rs.714,096, and selling at an average price of Rs.17.95 per kilo. The crop for 1904 was estimated from the successful flowering season in the autumn months of 1903 to fully realise the average harvest of recent years, viz., 60,000 kilos, but the drought, which set in during February, while the pods were young, shrivelled up or burnt quantities, and actually destroyed some thirty per cent. of the vines. In partial compensation the exposed plantations on the hills, which often suffer from prolonged periods of mist and damp and are liable to be mildewed, secured a crop above the average, but the total crop exported in 1904 amounted to only 41,072 kilos., or some 20,000 kilos., short of the estimate. Next, the price, which in 1899 and 1900 had averaged Rs.32 to Rs.33 per kilo., fell rapidly, until it reached bottom level in 1904 at Rs.7.30 per kilo. Finally, the failure of the French mail service in September and October lost the planters the only favourable sales in the London market during the whole year. Nor is the outlook bright for the future. The exports for the first five months of 1905 are substantially higher than during the same period of 1904, and the declared value is above Rs.8 per kilo., but the vines lost in 1904 have not been fully replaced, and the new cuttings will not come into bearing for three years. The forecast for the crop of 1905 is 40,000 kilos., with more than the average of large, well-matured pods. At Rs.8 per kilo. the cultivation of vanilla still affords a fair margin of profit over the cost of cultivation, but is insufficient to meet the charges on properties which are heavily mortgaged. If it were not for the threat of the cheapened and extended use of "vanillin" the prospects would not be altogether gloomy for planters who at the same time develop the area suitable for cocoanut, cacao, coffee, cloves, nutmegs, and

rubber. But the heavy crop in East Africa of cloves, from the oil of which vanillin is now prepared, may cheapen the production of vanillin, and the limited character of the market for vanilla in Paris may bring further calamities. A detailed survey of the industrial position of vanilla appeared in the 16th paragraph of the annual report on Seychelles for 1903. The remedies which the planters ask for are, (1) that vanillin, which is not made from vanilla, although it contains similar chemical properties, should be described under the Merchandise Marks Act as not the produce of the vanilla vine, with a similar provision in France; and (2) that the shipping charge now fixed at £16 per ton to Marseilles, and £20 per ton to London, should be reduced in reasonable proportions, say, to £10 per ton. As cargo it is conveyed in tin boxes absolutely inoffensive in character, only requiring to be kept apart from evil-smelling goods and in a dry place. The sole ground on which any justification for the high charge can be made is that it is valuable in proportion to its bulk, and that there is no competition against the monopoly of the steamship companies.

A statement showing the value, quantity, and average price of Seychelles vanilla for the last ten years is attached.

Value, Quantity, and Average Price of Seychelles vanilla for the last Ten Years.

Year.	Total Value of exports (including specie).	Quantity of vanilla exported.	Declared value of vanilla.	Average price per kilo. of vanilla.
	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs. cts.
1895	525,350	4,553	60,344	13 25
1896	1,535,895	31,227	936,000	14 85
1897	1,503,701	30,691	921,065	15 05
1898	1,278,382	25,177	748,810	29 74
1899	1,853,362	41,835	1,338,720	32 00
1900	1,036,161	17,569	580,877	33 06
1901	1,417,515	71,899	1,108,792	15 42
1902	1,094,268	60,862	642,330	10 55
1903	825,525	59,784	503,994	8 50
1904	724,187	41,072	300,026	7 30

19. The figures for the years 1894-1904 for the exports of products of the cocoanut palm are shown in the following table. The demand for coprah and the good price secured for the preparation in Seychelles has diverted much of the product from the manufacture of oil to that of coprah, and the change appears likely to continue. It is estimated that the local consumption of cocoanuts is 4 millions, and the total crop about 19 million nuts.

Exports of Products of the Cocoanut Palm.

Year.	Cocoanut oil.		Soap.		Cocoanuts.		Coprah.		Total value of cocoanut products exported.
	Hectolitres	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs.
1894	13,939	338,784	12,398	3,480	1,525,532	30,510	—	—	372,744
1895	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	1,632,880	32,647	—	—	409,279
1896	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	1,293,136	26,237	—	—	486,134
1897	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	1,492,475	29,849	—	—	414,627
1898	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	1,695,236	34,094	—	—	327,447
1899	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	983,418	19,667	—	—	442,286
1900	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	1,083,302	27,524	—	—	331,911
1901	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	1,071,732	26,228	—	—	205,321
1902	11,326	242,343	173,476	45,990	1,117,960	24,815	5,390	827	313,148
1903	18,504	160,977	234,421	56,851	1,241,026	28,848	30,458	5,884	246,676
1904	9,919	180,045	217,432	56,439	882,044	26,021	267,200	43,744	294,249

NOTE.—There is, at present, no export of desiccated cocoanut, poonac, or coir (rope yarn or fibre).

20. Of the remaining exports those included in the following table are the most important. The exports of cacao, tortoise shell, and salt fish admit of considerable development. The supply of merchantable guano seems likely to be soon exhausted. Coffee might be exported in larger quantities if prices of Liberian coffee ruled higher; whilst, with more abundant labour market and scientific cultivation, the export of cloves might again become important. Enquiry is being made as to the resources of the Seychelles in bread-fruit and bananas, with a view of supplying the increasing demand, especially at Marseilles, for cheap and nutritious food for stock.

Year.	Cacao.		Coffee.		Guano.		Tortoise Shell.		Salt Fish.	
	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Tons.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.
1894 ..	1,650	1,650	—	—	—	—	1,738	52,080	—	—
1895 ..	12,043	9,921	201	241	390	9,650	1,802	74,705	—	—
1896 ..	6,794	4,905	158	158	1,133	22,660	1,701	65,760	—	—
1897 ..	5,714	4,566	627	597	1,105	22,100	1,522	59,341	—	—
1898 ..	8,452	6,762	639	639	491	22,287	1,281	40,992	368	111
1899 ..	7,891	5,049	4,481	2,688	1,940	19,400	973	30,859	19,031	2,286
1900 ..	7,287	6,365	2,565	1,464	3,277	42,159	1,440	35,933	7,139	4,243
1901 ..	5,163	3,051	548	221	5,598	54,463	835	17,099	7,224	2,380
1902 ..	5,966	3,254	1,710	736	7,500	90,234	700	15,426	25,115	5,758
1903 ..	3,824	1,789	820	305	2,944	29,467	920	13,666	14,817	3,820
1904 ..	6,122	3,370	2,620	1,186	5,210	52,130	2,011	33,325	30,465	6,091

Comparative Table of Exports to Principal Countries, 1900 *to* 1904.

21. Subjoined is a table showing the immediate destination of exports (including specie) and the declared values at the Customs House, for the last five years:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	437,756	537,135	393,353	350,565	169,873
France	173,124	563,902	294,094	192,900	228,978
Mauritius, &c....	177,843	205,366	251,527	224,547	166,004
India and Aden.	110,121	78,354	98,858	47,355	131,176
African Ports ...	37,284	24,990	51,480	66,913	40,701
Madagascar ...	580	29,225	43,396	30,732	29,861
Other countries	115,503	44,373	101,697	53,313	35,302
Total ...	1,052,211	1,483,245	1,234,405	966,325	801,895

The foregoing table has to be accepted with the reservation that the destination to which goods are shipped from Seychelles is affected considerably by the difficulties in getting transport; for instance, communication with Mauritius is frequent and regular, therefore goods are shipped to that market in great measure for re-export because of the difficulty at present in reaching the market of Bombay. Were there a regular line of steamers calling at Mahé for the ports of Bombay, Colombo, or the East Coast of Africa, not only would the direct trade increase in proportion, but an inducement would offer, with the access to a larger market, to export a larger proportion of the produce of the islands which at present remains wasted and unharvested.

Exports to United Kingdom.

22. The quantity of vanilla cleared for London in 1904 was 18,517 kilos., valued at Rs.130,593; in 1903 the quantity was 37,402 kilos., valued at Rs.322,656. This remarkable decrease is due partly to the total output falling from 59,784 kilos. in 1903 to 41,073 kilos. in 1904, and partly to the belief that London is looked upon as the better market when prices are good, but that Paris sales are steadier when demand is dull. This is due to the fact that there are regular monthly sales in London, where parcels are sometimes put up to forced sale, whereas in Paris there is no open market, but the principal buyers, having standing contracts with the wholesale consumers, are ready to buy at a figure which is not subject to market fluctuations. As the prices ruled uniformly low during 1904, the proportion sent to London fell from 63 per

cent. in 1903 to 45 per cent. in 1904. The demand for tortoise shell was brisk and the supply rose from 812 kilos. (Rs.13,167) to 1,432 kilos. (Rs.22,048). Guano rose from 964 tons (Rs.9,640) to 1,050 tons (Rs.10,500). Cacao—70 cwt.—realised Rs.2,232, on an average of Rs.32 per cwt., a price which should encourage planters. Ten tons of coprah realised Rs.1,959. Calipee figures on the export list (for turtle soup), 1,400 kilos, realising Rs.1,740. Cocoanuts and cocoanut products are hardly represented, Marseilles and Bombay affording better markets for small consignments. Setting aside the export in vanilla, the trade is little changed. In 1904 more vanilla is being sent to London, nearly 13,000 kilos, from the contre-saison crop having gone forward from January to April.

Exports to France.

23. The export of vanilla to Paris included half the crop, viz., 20,255 kilos., valued at Rs.148,447. The figures for 1903 were 22,342 kilos. (37 per cent.), valued at Rs.180,936. The export of coprah to Marseilles, which in 1903 had been valued at Rs.5,079 (after a tentative start in 1902 of Rs.547), rose to Rs.40,986 for some 255 tons. Merchants find in Marseilles a ready market for small consignments which are not thought worth handling in London. Guano realised Rs.25,130 for 2,513. Tortoise shell was also in demand, 547 kilos. being valued at Rs.10,528.

Exports to Mauritius.

24. Cocoanut oil (Rs.110,702) and cocoanuts (Rs.11,534), salt fish (Rs.3,198) and salted lemons (Rs.966) are the principal exports. The figures are increased by a remittance of Rs.20,000 in Mauritius Government notes and by the export of 923 kilos. of vanilla, valued at Rs.8,987, which must have found its way to the European markets.

Exports to India.

25. Exports to India and Aden are most disappointing, due to the difficulty in sending produce direct. No less than Rs. 67,707 was despatched as specie in settlement for goods; had there been any certain or regular means of communication with Bombay or Colombo the bulk of this would have gone forward by way of produce. The principal export—cocoanut oil (Rs.43,608)—goes by a sailing ship owned by a Bombay firm with branches in Seychelles and Mauritius.

Exports to East Africa.

26. Zanzibar (Rs.38,043) is our chief customer, soap being the one large item (132 tons), valued at Rs.35,996. This prosperous local industry of soapmaking will probably suffer

from the scarcity of cocoanut oil, owing to the demand for coprah. The soap is of excellent quality and commands a ready market at remunerative prices in the neighbouring ports. Durban, Mombasa, and Dar-es-Salaam take produce in small quantities. The direct exports to Natal were valued at Rs.1,838.

Exports to French Colonies.

27. Madagascar was supplied with soap to the value of Rs.2,016, and cocoanut oil to the value of Rs.8,498. Réunion took cocoanut oil and salt fish. The buying capacity of Madagascar appears not to be increasing.

28. Belgium (1,250 tons of guano), Switzerland, and Germany—the two latter as small buyers of vanilla—also figure on the export returns.

29. The development of this Colony depends upon the satisfactory solution of several problems, among which one of the most important is the provision of regular means of shipment to the markets for its produce. There seems little difficulty in drawing supplies from Europe or, by means of transhipment at Aden or Mauritius, in obtaining rice or other necessaries from India or Indo-China. The difficulty rests in the lack of means of sending produce to the most suitable market. So long as vanilla was the mainstay of the Colony's wealth the matter was not of paramount importance, as parcels of high value could be accommodated on the mail steamers for Europe, or even sent by parcel post, and the charge per ton levied by the Messageries Maritimes (£16 to Marseilles, £20 to London) did not press unduly on the exporters. But now that the market for vanilla remains depressed for the third year in succession, and that there are signs of permanent over-production as well as substitution, for most of its uses, of a cheap chemical counterfeit, it becomes necessary for the planters and merchants to turn their serious attention to other products.

Among other products, the derivatives of the cocoanut palm are unquestionably the most important, viz., cocoanut oil, coprah, poonac, desiccated nut, and coir rope, yarn, or fibre. These industries, if provided with suitable machinery, are capable of wide development, especially as the markets are large and expanding, and are not likely to be glutted or replaced by the introduction of cheaper substitutes. The present prices are remunerative and the machinery for the preparation of coprah can be extended to other island products, such as manioc, bread-fruit, and bananas.

But in order to place these bulky products on the market it is essential that there should be regular and fairly cheap means of shipment. At present the French mail steamers will not carry cocoanut products for transhipment to the East

on the ground that they are offensive in odour, and cases occur when cargo is shut out owing to the small cargo capacity of the steamers being already taken up by goods from Mauritius, Réunion, or Madagascar.

30. The ruling rates by Messageries Maritimes steamers are as follows, and in a parallel column are the rates which are suggested as remunerative to the shipowners, these rates being approximately what were fixed by the British India Company and the German East African Line when they used to make Mahé a regular port of call.

Rate per Ton.

Produce.	Per M. M. Co.		Now suggested.
	To Marseilles.	To London.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Vanilla	16 0 0	20 0 0	10 0 0
Tortoise shell	5 0 0	5 10 0	4 0 0
Cocoa, coffee, cloves, &c. ...	6 8 0	6 16 0	3 10 0
Cocoanut oil	3 0 0	3 8 0	2 10 0
General goods	3 0 0	3 8 0	2 10 0
Coprah	2 4 0	2 12 0	2 0 0

An additional charge of 3*s*. to 5*s*. per ton should suffice if produce is carried to any European port beyond Marseilles, *i.e.*, London, Antwerp, or Hamburg. In Section 28 of my report for 1903 an analysis appears of the tonnage—approximately—of the imports ranged under the country of origin and the tonnage and distribution of the exports. The figures vary from year to year, more from opportunity offered for means of transit than in the actual details. The total tonnage inwards and outwards in a normal year may be put at 14,000 tons, outside the inter-island trade of the archipelagos themselves. Given the services of a line of steamers prepared to nurse the trade by reasonable rates and regular calls, and with accommodation for cargo at each visit, there is no reason why the export trade should not at least double itself in volume. Cultivators are turning their attention to other products than vanilla, and merchants are considering the erection of desiccating mills, so there is a reasonable prospect of weighty produce taking its legitimate place among the exports. The Government is prepared to contribute a direct subsidy up to Rs.30,000 a year and exemption from all port and light dues, asking in return that the Colony should be afforded regular, certain, and reasonably speedy means for delivering its produce at the markets of Europe, India, and East Africa.

(B.) MANUFACTURES.

31. Reference on the subject of manufactures and fisheries is invited to the annual reports for 1899, 1900, and 1901. (*See* Colonial Reports, Annual, No. 301, 333, and 364.)

A soap factory supplies the bulk of local wants, and exports some 220 tons, mainly to the neighbouring ports of Zanzibar, Nossi-Bé, and Port Louis. The basis is cocoanut oil; the other ingredients are imported free. Factories have been erected for the curing of vanilla, but planters and merchants generally prefer to prepare the green vanilla themselves, and the factories lack custom. It is an open question whether the lack of flavour in the Seychelles bean is due to the quality of the soil, to climatic causes, or to the methods of preparation. But it is not unreasonable to suppose that the higher prices realised in other producing countries, notably Mexico (according to the Customs returns of 1902 and 1903), may be in part due to superior methods of preparation. It has been the constant endeavour of the writer to point out that the prosperity of the individual does not arise so much from his possessing a secret not shared by his fellow planters as in the collective reputation in trade of the Seychelles name. Much green vanilla is notoriously badly prepared, but it is difficult to see what can be gained by State interference, which would not be better obtained through pressure of public opinion. Desiccating plant for the preparation of coprah and banana exists on a small scale, and is contemplated on a higher and more efficient basis. The coprah turned out by planters in their own calorifères, and the cocoanut oil expressed by the primitive mills are both excellent in quality but wasteful in the method of preparation. A study of the developments in these directions in Ceylon would be an education to many of the leading planters, whose travels are generally limited to a visit to Mauritius. It is suggested in another part of this report that the valuable scholarships granted to laureates at the Seychelles Schools might be better utilised in a training at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, or in employment as a premium-paying assistant on a well-ordered estate in Ceylon or the Straits Settlements, than in the superficial acquisition of enough knowledge to enter the learned professions or the Government Service.

Plans are in progress for permitting the reclaiming of shallow areas along the reefs which border the long pier, and the leasing of the areas reclaimed for industrial purposes, *e.g.*, for desiccation works and for engineering workshops and repairing yards. The saving would be considerable in transport owing to the fact that produce comes in from the coast villages and from the outlying islands in small boats, and the cost of handling and transporting goods to stores is considerable owing to the reefs and shallows. A factory for the preparation of coir fibre was once tried but failed, owing to conditions which should be avoided in the future.

An ice factory has been attempted and has failed through want of support; another is in course of erection. A small Government subsidy to secure a regular supply of ice to the general hospital was granted, and would be again forthcoming.

The projected improvement in the supply of water to the town of Victoria—where the existing sources of water are irregular and insufficient and not good in quality—would provide pressure sufficient to supply the higher quarters of the town, and to provide an ample head of water for securing the town from the present serious risk of a widespread conflagration.

A high-level reservoir at 600 feet above the town might be further utilised by means of a Pelton wheel or turbine to generate sufficient horse power to light the town by electricity and supply mechanical power to the public works yard.

The plaiting of vacoa bags from the fronds of the Raphia palm (*Raphia ruffia*) is an old-established local industry which has decayed in face of the superior durability of the gunny bags from Calcutta. There is a small export (15,800) to Mauritius and Madagascar, and there is a local trade in the making of straw hats, screens, and fancy work.

(C.) Fisheries.

32. All the natives of Seychelles are born sailors, and have been known as skilled and daring seamen from the times of the Napoleonic wars, when the corsairs of Mahé preyed on the East India Company's shipping. Most families on the shore own their own pirogue, as the small fishing boats are called, and inter-island communication is carried on by means of half-decked sailing boats or whale boats. Fish and turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) take the place of meat, and large quantities are consumed fresh; schooners bring up salted fish and live turtles in quantities from the outlying islands. Salt fish is exported in varying quantities; in 1903, 14,817 kilos. were exported, valued at Rs.3,821.

The tortoise shell fisheries from the hawksbill turtle (*Chelonia imbricata*) in 1903 yielded an export of 920 kilos., valued at Rs.13,667. Mother-of-pearl is procurable, and has been sent in samples to test the London market. Tripang, or bêche de mer, is exported in small quantites to China. The bays of Mahé lend themselves, in depth, freedom from currents, and configuration, to the cultivation of the pearl oyster. A paper prepared by Mr. F. R. Mortimore on the habits of the sea turtles and the giant land tortoise (*Testudo elephantina*) of the Aldabra Islands is added. A new British marine expedition, conducted by Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner and A. Forester Cooper, is to examine these archipelago in 1905, and much of scientific and economic interest may accrue there, as the investigations take place in waters not visited by the "Challenger" expedition.

(D.) Agriculture and Crown Lands.

33. The report of the Curator of the Botanic Station is attached to this report. Mr. Dupont was sent in 1902 on a mission to study the agricultural methods of Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula, and the Dutch Indies. Since his return, with an admirable selection of valuable plants of all kinds, he has published a series of reports on the cultivation of products, old and new, which are calculated to be of real value to the planters of this Colony.

No grants of Crown lands were made in 1903. The estimated area of the 89 islands and islets which comprise this Colony is 95,000 acres, of which 40,000 are under cultivation. The islands unalienated by the Crown may amount to 40,000 acres, of which the Aldabra and Cosmoledo groups, making up a considerable proportion, do not admit of any high degree of cultivation.

The Amirantes Islands, Curieuse and Felicité, are Crown lands, and were under lease in 1904. Attention is invited to the 32nd section of the annual report for 1903, in which the agricultural resources of Seychelles were examined at length and particulars were given of the meat and drink bill, as shown by the imports of 1902 and 1903.

Agricultural réunions have been organised, commencing by the reading and discussion of papers prepared by Mr. Dupont, followed by field meetings to illustrate the facts and theories put forward in the papers. The first series of meetings has had for its subject the causes and treatment of disease among the cocoanut palms, and the means for restoring to the exhausted soil the constituents withdrawn by its cultivation under cocoanuts. With abundance of lime from the coral formation, seaweed, and guano the planters are favourably situated for the renewal of fertility in worn-out estates. The meetings have been well attended and favourably received by the planters.

(E.) Shipping.

Comparative Tables of Shipping, 1903, 1904.

34. The following four tables show the number, tonnage, and nationalities of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the last two years:—

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1903...	17	3,442	—	—	1	663	—	—	1	767	19	4,872
1904...	12	2,659	1	366	—	—	1	851	1	834	15	4,710

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		American.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1903...	17	3,348	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	767	18	4,115
1904...	10	2,553	1	366	1	663	1	851	1	834	14	5,267

(3.) *Steamers Entered.*

Year.	British		French.		German.		Portuguese.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1903 ...	21	54,401	28	58,165	13	18,787	—	—	62	131,358
1904 ...	28	61,865	20	42,643	1	1,850	1	1,800	50	108,158

(4.) *Steamers Cleared.*

Year.	British.		French.		German.		Portuguese.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1903 ...	22	56,346	28	58,165	13	18,787	—	—	63	133,298
1904 ...	29	61,670	20	42,643	1	1,850	1	1,800	51	107,963

The following tables, which are numbered (5) and (6) for facility of reference, give information respecting the men-of-war of all nations which have visited Seychelles during the last five years, and a comparative statement of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the same period:—

(5.) *Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles for the five years* 1900–1904.

Year.	British.			American.			Austrian.			Dutch.			French.			German.			Italian.			Portuguese.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1900	10	27,631	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3,149	14	1	1,120	13	1	400	4	1	1,800	12	42,000
1901	4	13,124	12	3	5,283	48	2	3,880	27	1	7,900	8	1	3,149	28	7	50,511	92	—	—	—	1	638	5	76,585
1902	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4,117	32	—	—	—	1	3,400	14	—	—	—	7,517
1903	10	35,795	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9,867	36	3	1,770	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,432
1904	9	26,869	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2,511	18	1	1,850	8	—	—	—	1	1,800	10	33,030

(6.) *Comparative Statement of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards* 1900–1904.

Year.	—	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian		Portuguese		Spanish.		Total Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
1900	Inwards	86	140,222	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,345	1	400	4	2,424	1	1,800	—	—	317,391
	Outwards	86	140,211	—	—	—	—	1	7,900	5	3,470	2	2,345	1	400	5	2,686	1	1,800	—	—	
1901	Inwards	55	78,834	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	338,464
	Outwards	55	78,415	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	
1902	Inwards	37	41,249	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	51,592	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	237,977
	Outwards	36	39,831	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	51,557	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	
1903	Inwards	38	58,843	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	14	19,450	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	274,645
	Outwards	39	59,694	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	13	18,787	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	
1904	Inwards	40	64,524	1	366	—	—	—	—	20	42,643	1	1,856	1	851	1	834	1	1,800	—	—	226,098
	Outwards	37	64,223	1	366	—	—	—	—	20	42,643	2	2,513	1	851	1	834	1	1,800	—	—	

Trade and Mail Communication.

35. The only noteworthy incident with regard to sailing craft touching at Port Victoria was the visit of a New England whaler, the first to call for 14 years. The vessel was most successful in her enterprise, finding sperm whales in abundance to the north of the Seychelles bank. Whether the fisheries were at any time exhausted or whether the trade languished during the American civil war and before the competition of steam shipping is not quite clear, but the good fortune of the present venture, which was equally successful in hunting the "right" whale off the Crozets and the sperm whale in these seas, may tempt whalers again to resort to the Indian Ocean. These islands contain numbers of Americans and Portuguese from Cape Verde, who had been left behind from whalers, and most of whom are handy, hard-working settlers.

The volume of British shipping is considerably in excess of that under the French flag, the falling off in the total of the latter being due to the suspension, owing to strikes at Marseilles, of the regular mail service carried out by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes.

The planters and traders of Seychelles are still embarrassed from the absence of regular means of communication with Bombay and Colombo and the east coast of Africa. Bombay is a natural market for the cocoanut products of the islands, and is the port whence many of the imports can be most conveniently obtained, while the export trade to Zanzibar, Mombasa, and Durban should be capable of considerable development. The German East African Line has ceased to call at Victoria, and the British India Line sends steamers only when a minimum cargo of 300 tons is guaranteed, in advance, either to or from Bombay. The difficulty exists not so much in the ultimate probability of securing this quantity of cargo as on the reluctance of the company to make the regular calls at first, until the volume of the trade has been built up from the certainty of the regular service. During the suspension of the French mail service, the British India Company arranged for five calls on an average guarantee, which was met without trouble. The development of local industries, such as the desiccation of cocoanuts, the making of soap, and the preparation of coprah, poonac, or fibre, is checked by the difficulty and cost of transmission to an open market.

The rates for freight charged by the Messageries steamers is so high as to be almost prohibitive except for light, valuable cargo; and the differentiation in rates in favour of French colonies as against British seems of the nature of an injustice. For instance, the outcharges from Marseilles to Mahé are from 60 francs to 80 francs per ton, with the addition of 10 per

cent. surcharge; while the same class of goods are carried further to Madagascar at rates, according to the same classification, of 49 francs to 60 francs, with a rebate of 10 per cent. Freight charges from London to Victoria average 55 per ton, or more than twice as much as to Colombo, a port about equidistant but favoured by competition. Similarly, the homeward freight charges are so high as to prevent the competition of Seychelles with, for instance, the West Indies, in many items of tropical produce.

In paragraph 30 (*supra*) a table has been drawn up setting out the present ruling rates and those which it is suggested might be adopted by the shipowners with an ample margin of profit to themselves and great benefit to the Colony.

Means of Communication among the Islands.

36. The Port Office is an important department in a colony which consists of 89 islands and groups of islands, several of which are situated over 600 miles from Mahé. The main interest centres in the Seychelles Archipelago, consisting of 45 mountain tops and coral atolls rising from the Seychelles Bank, an area measuring 150 miles from north to south, and about the same from east to west. In this area the soundings do not exceed 50 fathoms, with an average depth of 1,700 fathoms outside the line of the banks. The islands in this group are served, for administrative purposes, by means of a Government steam launch, the "Alexandra," of 30 tons, built at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, and received in December, 1902. The "Alexandra" made, in 1904, thirty-four voyages, including a regular fortnightly service to Praslin and La Digue, the islands which, in population and importance, rank next to Mahé. She conveyed 654 passengers and a considerable quantity of cargo. During the height of the south-east trades —June to August—when the sea runs high among the islands, it is thought prudent to limit the regular service to one trip a month, passengers preferring to travel by sailing craft during these months. Her earnings amounted to Rs.1,500, or about half the cost of her maintenance. Between the months from November to March there are often long periods of calms, during which her steam power renders the launch of great public convenience; but when there is sufficient wind numerous whaling boats and cutters ply between the islands. The Governor made use of the launch on five trips of inspection during the year. The service of the steam launch is supplemented by the use of a Government cutter, the "Wave," of 7½ tons, which sailed 2,000 miles during the year, and carried 85 passengers and 20 tons of cargo. The cutter is used on a monthly service to the lighthouse on Denis Island, and Atoll, on the northern edge of the banks 55 miles from Victoria. The lighthouse service, efficiently maintained, is under the control of the Port Officer.

There is, in addition, a fleet of smaller boats employed by the Government in local service for the medical officers, the police, the preventive service, and on quarantine duty.

The Amirantes Archipelago is situated on a bank to the west and south-west of Mahé, the nearest point being 120 miles off, extend north and south some 260 miles, with a maximum breadth of 50 miles. This archipelago consists of 27 islands or atolls divided into five groups, known as the African banks, St. Joseph Group, Poivre Islands, Alphonse Group, and Providence Group, the last-named being within 170 miles of Cape Amber, the most northern point of Madagascar.

This archipelago, as well as the Cosmoledo Islands (twelve in number, situated 210 miles west of Providence) and the Aldabra Group (of five more islands, 60 miles still further to the west), is served by sailing craft owned in Seychelles. There are seven vessels ranging from 15 to 250 tons, which trade between the Seychelles Islands or visit Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion, and Bombay. During 1904 the visiting magistrate inspected all the groups and islands, except the neighbouring islands of Silhouettes, Frigate, North, Bird, and Flat Islands. These islands had been visited in 1903, and three were visited early in 1905. To make the visits of the magistrate more effective and regular, it would be of advantage to have a Government schooner of some 80 tons, suitable for cruising among the outlying islands, but the present financial position renders this project impossible for the present; meanwhile, the Government can require the owner or lessee of islands to provide a passage for the magistrate.

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. During the year 1904, 12 Ordinances were passed by the local legislature; of these the following are the principal:—

No. 2.—Abolishes a close season for turtle during the breeding months.

No. 4.—Empowers the Governor in Executive Council to grant loans to planters on mortgage repayable in five years, at 6 per cent. interest, not exceeding one-half the value of the estate the subject matter of the loan, to be used for the benefit of the estate in question. It provides a procedure whereby legal or un-inscribed mortgages rank after a mortgage under the Ordinance; and, further, special powers are given for the recovery of the loan should the estate not be maintained in cultivation, or should the loan be used for purposes other than those authorised. The Ordinance limits the amount available to a sum not exceeding Rs.100,000.

No. 5.—Consolidates and revises the existing law of mortgage; a few amendments have been inserted which bring the

law up to date in accord with the practice obtaining. One of the chief amendments in the law is that which allows a creditor thirty days after the death of his debtor within which to inscribe his mortgage—a principle adopted from the Belgian Code.

No. 6.—This law affects the law of registration to the same extent as Ordinance No. 5 does the law of mortgages. The duties payable on the registration of documents and by whom are exhaustively dealt with—all deeds, judgments, &c., drawn up, in or out of the jurisdiction, not relating to real or personal . . . . rights or property in the Colony are subject to a uniform duty of one rupee. It imposes certain obligations upon public officers and notaries so as to ensure the provisions of the law being complied with.

No. 7.—Provides for the publication of marriages intended to be solemnised out of the Colony under the Foreign Marriage Act (Imperial), 1892.

No. 10.—The most important piece of legislation during the year under report was the passing of this Ordinance, the Seychelles Penal Code, 1904, affecting as it does the entire community. Previous to its passing the criminal law in force in the Colony was contained in the Mauritius Penal Code of 1838, and numerous subsequent amending Ordinances; these laws still form the basis of the present Ordinance, so that many of the provisions of the French Criminal Code of 1810, on which the law of 1838 was based, are still kept alive, although the drastic forms of punishment provided under that code have been brought into line with the more merciful tendency of modern legislation; and certain acts formerly penal are no longer so, as, for instance, adultery on the part of a wife and her accomplice was a penal offence in the Colony even as late as 1900. The new code in no way effects any organic change in the old law, but attempts, so far as is consistent therewith, to dispose of antiquated and obsolete matters and terms; even now some of the expressions found in this code will appear archaic and primeval, but it must be borne in mind that they have been adopted as the English translation from the old French code, and from long use have become familiar in every day practice—to attempt to clothe them in more modern phraseology might be a dangerous expedient. Definitions of certain criminal offences, *inter alia*, forgery, rape, and perjury, have been introduced based upon modern decisions of the High Courts of England and France.

Offences against the State and against public peace have been revised so as to suit, as far as possible, modern times and local requirements; the provisions found in the old code bore the stamp of the revolutionary ideas still existing at that period. A chapter dealing with gaming has been inserted in the code. Under its provisions lotteries, where the prize is "money's worth" only, may, with the sanction of the Government, take place. Many of the provisions of the code have

been adapted from the India Penal Code, *inter alia*, those dealing with resistance or escape from lawful custody, criminal intimidation, wrongful confinement, offences in connection with false weights and measures.

The French law of murder has been maintained, and a verbatim translation of the French Code dealing with this offence reproduced. The code repeals 13 Mauritius Ordinances and parts of Ordinances formerly applicable, and 7 Seychelles laws, all of which affected the 1838 Code. Perhaps one of the chief features of the code is that now, for the first time, the text of the criminal law of the Colony in English; hitherto both the English as well as the French texts have been held to be in force, and where any contradiction or difference existed between the two, the accused party derived the benefit; in a few instances original French expressions have been inserted, which are to be construed in accordance with French law.

No. 11.—Authorises the transmission between the United Kingdom and the Colony, by means of Post Office Money Orders, of sums not exceeding £40 in lieu of £10 as formerly, and empowers the Governor-in-Council to alter or vary this limit should occasion require.

Revision of Laws.

38. During the year the Mauritius laws in force in the Colony were revised and brought together in one volume; in some instances the Seychelles Local Ordinances are also printed for facility of reference and so as to complete the group of the law on any one particular subject. The utility of this work cannot be over-estimated. The laws collected therein date back to 1766, scattered here and there as they were throughout the voluminous Mauritius legislation from that date onwards, until the separation of Seychelles in 1903 from Mauritius. On reference to the volume it is worthy of note that Arrêté of the 14 Pluviose year XII (3rd February, 1805), regulating the functions of notaries, is still the organic law governing the practice of notaries in Seychelles. The laws contained in the volume are those held to be applicable when this Colony was a dependency of Mauritius (as modified by subsequent local legislation or by implication), or (ii) those which from time to time have passed the Mauritius Legislature expressly with reference to Seychelles, or (iii) were expressly extended thereto in the law itself or by Proclamation.

Of the first class few laws now remain extant. In 1888 this power of the Mauritius Government to legislate expressly for Seychelles was limited by Letters Patent, which provided that no law enacted by the Mauritius Government should be brought into operation if objected to by a resolution of the Legislative Council of Seychelles, then for the first time constituted, unless expressly authorised by the Sovereign, a right

which was carefully reserved in subsequent Letters Patent, until the separation from Mauritius in 1903. French is the language of the official text of the laws up to 1832, but for the sake of convenience the English translation has been taken from Rouillard's edition, published in 1866. The laws passed between 1832 and 1841 appear to have been published both in English and in French; the English text only has been printed. The volume, as pointed out by Mr. Herchenroder, the then Chief Justice, in his preface thereto, although not authoritative in itself is a much-needed publication, for the general information of the community, with respect of the laws obtaining locally. The printing of the volume (over 1,000 pages) was accomplished locally by the Government printer, and is in every way most creditable.

*Volume II.—Contains the local Regulations from 1872-1888, passed by the Board of Civil Commissioners and the local Seychelles Ordinances from 1889 to 1898 still in force in the Colony; the remaining local Ordinances in force up to the year 1903, will, it is hoped, be published at some future date in a third volume. As it is, those whose duty it now is either to administer or to consult the local laws have an easy task when compared with the bewildering and confused mass of legislation over which their researches must formerly have extended, and for this alone the compilers merit their thanks.

IV.—EDUCATION.

39. The direction of the educational policy of the Colony is under the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and his Executive Council, advised by an Education Committee composed of the Chief Justice, as Chairman, four members nominated by the Governor (of whom two are officials and two unofficials), two persons nominated by the Roman Catholic Bishop and one by the Civil Chaplain (of the Church of England), with the Inspector of Schools as Secretary.

Primary education is imparted in 25 grant-in-aid schools, twenty-two of which are under Roman Catholic control and three under the auspices of the Church of England. There are no primary schools of an undenominational character. The number of pupils enrolled in these schools is 2,549 (12·8 of the population), an increase of 324 over 1903. Three new schools have been opened during 1904, but have not yet established the qualifications necessary to secure the privilege of the grant-in-aid. The average attendance at all the schools is 1,929 (9·6 of the population and 67 per cent. of the roll), an increase of 133. The schools are examined according to standards under a prescribed curriculum, and receive grants-in-aid from the State. The grants are threefold:—for the payment of certificated teachers, on the average attendance, and

* Published at the date of writing this report.

on the results of an annual examination. The vote for this head of service is Rs.12,000.

Secondary education for boys is imparted at the Victoria School (108), the Government undenominational school, and at the paying branch of the St. Louis College (134), under the direction of the Marist Brothers. A most liberal endowment of scholarships, open without restriction, is provided by the Government to enable advanced scholars to continue their studies at the Royal College of Mauritius or in the United Kingdom.

For girls higher education is provided by Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny, at the Convent School in Victoria (113 pupils).

40. The standard of knowledge acquired by the pupils is not high when measured by what is now expected in most countries. The peasant children and the children of African origin are not naturally bright, and labour under the disadvantage of knowing only a creole patois, which is too restricted and rude to be a medium of learning. As far as possible, English is now the sole medium through which teaching is imparted, but its acquisition is that of a foreign language. The same difficulty would apply in almost as marked a degree to the use of French as a medium. But little assistance is received from home surroundings, as the patois is, in the majority of houses, the sole language used.

At St. Louis College and at the Convent Schools fair material is provided in the children of well-to-do Roman Catholics, and a good, sensible training is imparted, but the Government institution labours under great disadvantages in the variety of boys attending. However, there are indications that the good teaching staff secured for the Victoria School will, with patient and persistent effort, attain to good results. The cost of the Victoria School is disproportionately high; for the time being it is essential in this Colony that higher education should be obtainable apart from denominational training.

The weak points in the present system seem to be (1) a want of continuity of training from the primary to the secondary schools, which may be remedied by granting free tuition at the Government School to the most promising pupils of the country schools; and (2) a lack of technical training for those children who through their origin and surroundings are not receptive of book learning, but who have the making of skilled craftsmen if some elementary knowledge of trades is also imparted to them. The Government is endeavouring to combat these defects by offering small prizes, sufficient to cover the cost of living and books, at the Victoria School, for the most promising of the pupils in the country schools, and by opening classes in carpentering in connection with the Victoria School.

School Statistics, 1900 to 1904.

41. In the following table are given statistics respecting the Grant-in-Aid Schools and the Victoria School for the last five years:—

—	Roman Catholic.*					Church of England.					Victoria School and Infant School.†				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
No. of schools ...	21	23	22	22	22	6	6	4	3	3	1	2	2	2	2
No. of pupils on roll.	2,247	2,377	2,435	2,315	2,371	348	343	267	170	173	113	106	123	134	108
No. of pupils in average attendance.	1,717	1,690	1,458	1,532	1,704	241	227	183	148	134	79	82	101	80	91
‡ Grant earned Rs.	Rs. 8,451	Rs. 9,573	Rs. 9,128	Rs 10,469	Rs. 10,704·61§	Rs. 1,548	Rs. 1,702	Rs. 1,211	Rs. 1,385	Rs. ‖1,295.39	†Note.—The cost of these schools is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff consists of a head master, four assistant masters, two pupil teachers, and a schoolmistress for the infant school.				

* These schools include the St. Louis College and Convent paying schools.
‡ The annual provision for grants to schools was increased in 1901 from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000.
§ Includes a balance of Rs. 429·54 due for the year 1903, paid in 1904.
‖ Includes a balance of Rs. 8·21 due for the year 1903, paid in 1904.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

42. The Victoria Hospital is the only general hospital in the Seychelles. The excellent system of roads carried out by my predecessor renders it unnecessary to establish a similar institution in South Mahé. A cottage hospital in Praslin, to serve the group of islands administered from that centre, would be a public benefit, and plans and estimates will be prepared and the project kept in view until such time as the resources of the Colony are in an improved condition to justify the expenditure. It is also under contemplation to establish an asylum for the insane at Anse Royale, under the care of Dr. Bradley, the Assistant Medical Officer for South Mahé, who has had special training in the study of lunacy. The present arrangement of deporting persons adjudged to be insane to the asylum at Mauritius is attended with obvious disadvantages. The Victoria Hospital is supplemented by the establishment of six outdoor dispensaries, namely, one at Victoria, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer and his assistant; two at Anse Royale and at Anse Boileau, respectively, serving the needs of the southern end of Mahé, under the direction of the Assistant Medical Officer for that division; and three under the Medical Officer at the island of Praslin, namely, two on Praslin itself, at Baie St. Anne and Grand' Anse, and one on the adjacent island of La Digue. The medical wants of the more distant groups of islands are looked after by the Assistant Medical Officer at Victoria, who pays periodical visits in his capacity of Visiting Magistrate, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1902.

43. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital for the last five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1900 ...	112	58	23	12	14	219
1901 ...	147	53	21	17	9	247
1902 ...	176	43	23	14	10	266
1903 ...	172	52	8	28	9	269
1904 ...	210	38	13	20	18	299

The hospital is central and well situated. The wards are airy and well constructed, and the water supply is pure and unlimited. There is a new dispensary building adjoining the hospital, and quarters are provided for the Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Medical Officer, and the nurses (who are sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny). The hospital death rate for

the year (6·5 per cent.) is much lower than in the comparatively unhealthy year of 1903 (9·8 per cent). The principal causes of the increasing number of in-patients is the poverty of the peasants and the kindly care bestowed on them by the nursing sisters: Sister St. Landri has worked in the hospital without change for 37 years.

Dispensaries.

44. The number of persons who attended for treatment at the outdoor dispensaries has risen to 3,301, of whom 1,067 were males and 2,234 females; the figures for 1902 were 2,340, and for 1903 2,709. The sympathetic treatment of the medical officers has encouraged the poor people to resort to the dispensaries for aid, and there is little local prejudice against European treatment. The increase in numbers was evenly distributed among all the dispensaries. For the treatment of disorders generally prevalent in the islands the African and the Creole elements are learned in the use of local medicinal plants, of which a list, developed and extended from that published by Dr. Daruty in Mauritius (18), is in course of preparation. Treatment of disease by witch-craft has practically died out, but there still are African witch doctors, who by common rumour are credited with a practical knowledge of poisons and philtres. There seem to be no bone-setters, and for surgical cases and serious ailments the fullest confidence is felt in the ministrations of the six doctors with British qualifications.

Principal Diseases.

45. The abnormally wet weather of 1903 was succeeded in 1904 by an equally prolonged drought, the effect of which was very favourable to the general health. A few cases of beri-beri were under observation, but this disease is of rare occurrence; dysentery and diarrhœa, which had been prevalent in the rains of 1903, occurred only during the rain in January and towards the end of the long drought. Cases of enteric rarely occur, and malarial fever, which devastates the neighbouring colony of Mauritius, is unknown; indeed, the death rate of 16·12 per thousand in 1904 is probably lower than in any other place within the tropics. It is unfortunate that the Colony has been in times past recommended for cases of phthisis; the year under review was less unfavourable than the generality for this disease, but the climate is not favourable for consumptive cases.

Leper Asylum.

46. On the 31st December there were nine lepers in the home. The medical officer in charge is of opinion that leprosy is not increasing, but his experience goes to show that there are families in which there is susceptibility towards this malady. Segregation is not compulsory; it is a matter for

grave reflection whether it would not be wise to attempt to reduce the number of afflicted persons who are permitted to remain under the care of their relations. The Home on Round Island in the Baie St. Anne, close to the house of the Assistant Medical Officer of Praslin, is well adapted for the treatment of cases, and the general tone among the patients is more cheerful than is usually the case elsewhere.

Pauper Camp.

47. The number of paupers maintained by the Government at the close of the year was ten. These represent the old and destitute without any relatives, who are bound under the French law to maintain them. The camp is roomy and well kept.

Lunatic Asylum.

48. The insane are still sent from Seychelles for care and treatment at the Government Asylum of Mauritius; the number had fallen to 15 at the end of 1903. The disadvantages of long transfer by sea in sailing vessels—for regular mail steamers refuse insane patients—are obvious, and the distance causes difficulties attending discharge on probation. Moreover, the charge for maintenance is high, and the costs of transport are sometimes excessive. It is proposed to establish an asylum home under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer at Anse Royale, who has made a special study of mental diseases, and a site has been secured for the erection of the necessary buildings.

Vaccination.

49. Owing to the interruption of the mail service vaccination had to be suspended for several months; it was resumed as soon as fresh lymph arrived. Except that which had continued to be despatched in monthly consignments from London during the strikes at Marseilles, and which had been left lying at that port pending the resumption of the mail service, the lymph was of good quality and gave excellent results.

——	Number.
Successful—	
1st time	369
2nd time	67
3rd time	16
Unsuccessful	19
Total	462

The subject of compulsory and gratuitous re-vaccination is under discussion. The younger generation have been vaccinated and are well protected. Most of the old people have had small-pox during the epidemic of 1883; but there exists a class of wage earners who are left unprotected should small-pox be again introduced. The existence of this scourge at several of the ports in direct communication with Seychelles renders it possible, despite the great care of the Quarantine Committee, that the disease might occur; and it is probable that the local authorities will declare the various divisions to be threatened with danger of small-pox, in order to provide for compulsory and gratuitous re-vaccination.

Savings Bank.

50. The Government Savings Bank consists of the central office in Victoria, opened in 1894, of a branch at Baie St. Anne in Praslin, opened in 1901, and of branches at La Digue and Anse Royale, both opened in 1902. There was a slight increase in the number of depositors and in the total deposits, the average account per head being Rs.193.

The following table gives the savings bank statistics for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs.
1900 ...	221	35	28	61,492.04
1901 ...	243	52	30	58,761.19
1902 ...	279	44	8	52,663.92
1903 ...	291	35	23	58,067.07
1904 ...	302	34	23	58,462.63

The amount invested on behalf of the savings bank is the same as in 1900, when the funds were first invested, and although the depreciation in stocks at the end of 1904 shows a nominal decrease in value, there is still a margin of Rs.50,303 in excess of the deposits.

51. Attention is drawn in the Blue Book reports for 1899, 1900, and 1901 to the need of a bank in Seychelles. The normal rate of interest on mortgage is 12 per cent., augmented in most cases by onerous conditions, such as a charge of 5 per cent. as commission for negotiating the loan, and the condition that the whole produce of the property shall be sold to the creditor at a fixed rate, generally below the market price. The losses of 1903 and 1904 through the fall of prices for

vanilla have placed many well-to-do planters in temporary difficulties. In order to assist those whose position was not too seriously jeopardised, the Government is authorised, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, to lend to planters on first mortgage at the rate of 6 per cent., a sum not to exceed a total of Rs.100,000. The conditions require repayment within five years. It has been found necessary to fix Rs.10,000 as the maximum which may be lent to any one person, and the exigencies of the revenue have rendered it necessary to limit for the present the total available for loan to Rs.75,000. The loans granted have been of much benefit to deserving planters and are amply secured. At the present juncture, when many estates have perforce changed hands and capital expenditure is being incurred in the introduction of new products, fresh capital could be advantageously invested and banking facilities would be especially opportune.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force.

52. The authorised strength of the police force—79 of all ranks—was reduced on the 1st September, in accordance with the urgent need of retrenchment, to 63 persons, viz., an inspector, sub-inspector, sergeant-major, 3 sergeants, 6 corporals, 46 constables, and 5 harbour police. There were, in addition, 1 corporal and 8 constables in charge of political prisoners—Prempeh, ex-king of Ashanti, and Kabarega, ex-king of Unyoro, and their followers—who are paid by the Government of the Gold Coast and the Uganda Protectorate respectively. The force at the central station numbers 27 of all ranks; the remainder are distributed among 11 outstations, of which three are at Praslin and one at La Digue. The cost was Rs.37,501, representing a saving for 1905 of Rs.3,519. The estimate for 1905 is Rs.34,317.

The police prosecuted in 747 cases, involving 961 accused persons, of whom 836 were convicted. The following table shows the comparative results for five years:—

Year.	No. of cases.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.	Declared value of property lost.	Value of property recovered.	Fines inflicted.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1900 ...	688	964	818	937	688	9,782
1901 ...	828	1,024	904	5,984	242	8,166
1902 ...	943	1,157	1,014	828	802	11,146
1903 ...	869	1,079	987	2,906	2,091	9,303
1904 ...	797	961	836	4,385	503	8,025

Six cases of burglary were reported to the police; evidence was forthcoming in five instances and convictions followed in each case, the sentences ranging from two to five years.

Complaints have been numerous of petty thefts of estate produce, but sufficient evidence is not often obtained to warrant prosecution on the informations. In view of the mountainous character of the islands, the total absence of fences, and the rare use by proprietors of night watchmen, it would be impossible for the Government to organise a force of rural police to adequately protect prædial property in country districts. In prosperous years petty thefts are rarely noticed, and the peasants are too well paid to make it worth their while to steal. In hard times, when chances of employment are irregular and wages are reduced, the Africans help themselves to the manioc and cocoanuts of the neighbouring proprietors. Efforts have been made to co-operate with the landowners to check petty larcenies of this nature, and the police have been successful in 123 cases.

Law Courts.

53. The following table shows the volume of the judicial work transacted in the five years 1900 to 1904:—

Judicial Statistics, 1900 *to* 1904.

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1900 ...	870	860	1,096	931	183	85	80
1901 ...	912	899	1,147	959	187	72	62
1902 ...	1,098	1,083	1,346	1,097	235	100	73
1903 ...	1,108	1,099	1,293	1,071	271	94	64
1904 ...	1,083	1,077	1,278	808	232	24	80

54. The number of cases of crime and misdemeanour dealt with in the Court of Seychelles was 236: 296 persons were charged, 234 convicted and 62 acquitted. The more serious charges included an attempted murder (convicted for grievous hurt), two cases of assault on the police, larceny with aggravating circumstances 27, and one charge of causing damage to an estate by fire.

The number of cases dealt with in the police court for contraventions against the law was 392, in which 500 persons were

charged and 407 convicted. The Justice of the Peace in South Mahé had before him 150 accused persons, of whom 126 were convicted; the Justice of the Peace for Praslin and La Digue tried 154 persons and convicted 139. The Visiting Magistrate for the outlying islands dealt with six cases, in which the six men charged were tried and convicted; none of these last cases were of a serious character, being minor offences under the labour laws or for causing disturbance.

The population as a whole is singularly law abiding, and there is a marked absence of the litigious element which bulks so largely in the statistics of India and the dependencies of the Farther East; the offences against the person disclose few aggravated crimes, the last case of homicide having been tried in 1898. The offences against property were more numerous and serious in 1904 than in the preceding years, due mainly to the widespread poverty succeeding a cycle of prosperous years, which had raised the standard of living. There were 213 cases of drunkenness as against 337 in 1903, the diminution being due mainly to want of means; but whatever its cause the improvement is most marked and may be permanent. The illicit preparation of "bacca," the fermented juice of the sugar cane, is still prevalent; and the custom of having a "festin" in order to clear an extent of land for cultivation, to which all labourers in the neighbourhood are invited, and are rewarded by a free distribution of fermented "bacca," leads to drunkenness and disorders.

Prison.

55. The number of persons committed to prison during 1904 amounted to 408 men and 57 women, showing an increase of 19 over the figures for 1903; but out of this total 297 were under remand for safe custody or for want of security and in default of payment of fines imposed by the Courts. The number actually sentenced to undergo penal imprisonment was 170, namely, 154 men and 16 women. The daily average of prisoners was 50, of whom 5 were women. There were 34 admissions to the prison infirmary—all of them males. There were no deaths nor escapes nor cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners was remarkably good; the infirmary was empty from the 21st October, 1904, to the 22nd March, 1905. The increase in the number of prisoners is due, not to an increase of crime—except in the matter of petty larcenies—but to widespread poverty and unwillingness to pay small fines imposed by the Courts. The tendency to elect to go to prison rather than to pay fines has been partly due to the prison diet having been fixed at a higher scale than most prisoners are accustomed to when at liberty. The scale of diet has accordingly been revised with good results.

The subjoined table shows the statistics for the past five years:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in Prison.
1900...	315	52
1901...	276	40
1902...	384	40
1903...	450	45
1904...	467	50

The improvements to, and the enlargements of, the Victoria Prison continued during 1904, when a sum of Rs.6,100 was expended. A further sum of Rs.1,300 was spent early in 1905 to effect the completion of the scheme on a cheaper and modified plan. The prison is now on a level with modern requirements. The cost of the prison department was Rs.11,480.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

56. The estimated population on the 31st December, 1903, was 19,972; the population was increased by 446 in the course of 1904. The density of the population is now 137 per square mile, and is considerably in excess of the present capacity of the Colony to feed it. The bulk of the food supply is imported, mainly rice, from Burmah and Indo-China. Rice fields used to exist to a small extent in the marshes, but have been long abandoned. Manioc or cassava is grown among the hills and turtle meat is fairly plentiful, being brought up from the southerly islands during the prevalence of the east trade. There are pigs in plenty, but ordinary butcher's meat has to be imported and is rarely eaten by the poorer classes. There is an excess of males, the numbers being 10,500 and 9,918 females.

Birth Rate.

57. The number of birth[illegible]38 (29·5 illegitimate), the birth rate being 34·94 per [illegible] against 33·84 in 1903, 35·72 in 1902, and 32·61 in 1901. [illegible]e number of still births has fallen to 49. There were 20 cases of twin births recorded—about 6 per cent of the total births.

Death Rate.

58. The number of deaths was 322—at the rate of 16·12 per thousand. The death rate in 1903 was abnormally high, due mainly to infant mortality from an epidemic of measles, but the average rate for the last ten years has been 17·92 per 1,000. The mortality among children under six years of age in 1903 had been 3[illegible] per cent. of the total; in 1904 it fell to 29·5 per cent. A marked feature in the mortality returns is the large proportion of very old persons who have died during the year: 129 deaths (40 per cent.) are registered as of ages above 50 years, of whom two are returned as centenarians (at ages of 114 and 106). Although the evidence of age is not in most cases conclusive, there is a marked longevity among the creole peasants and among the liberated Africans who were landed in the Colony from ships of war engaged in the suppression of the slave trade. The number of marriages registered was 113 against 121 in 1903; two marriages were contracted in *articulo mortis*. Of the parties to marriage, 197 were Roman Catholics and 29 members of the Church of England.

Climate.

59. The following table gives the rainfall and the maximum and minimum shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	Maximum Shade Temperature.	Minimum Shade Temperature.
1900...	110·75	88·7	74·1
1901...	102·26	88·5	68·4
1902...	87·81	88·0	68·0
1903...	132·96	88·5	68·0
1904...	106·74	87·2	68·2

The average daily maximum was 82°·2, the minimum 72°·9. The mean temperature was 76°·56, the lowest on record and appreciably less than the average for the past six years, which is 79°·016.

The rainfall, although above the twelve previous years (100·8), was most unevenly and most unfortunately distributed. There was very heavy rain in January (29·61), and up to the middle of February (13·23), and again in November (24·02), and in December (28·49); thus 95·35 inches fell at the beginning and at the end of the year. In the intervening 8½ months only 11·39 inches fell, the bulk of which, falling in August and September, was very local in its character, and

missed the neighbourhoods which were not in the vicinity of the high mountains.

The months of March, May, June, and July were practically rainless, and the drought did immense havoc to all the fruit crops. It is estimated that one-third of the vanilla vines died out, and the crop gathered was only two-thirds of the normal yield. Similarly, the cocoanut plantations suffered severely, the immature nuts falling to the ground and the flowering was checked, so that the crop in 1905 must also be reduced. In startling contrast to the meagre fall of 11·39 inches from the 15th February to the end of October, the rainfall for the same period in 1903 was no less than 90·73 inches. The drought caused much inconvenience in the town of Victoria, where the various sources of water supply failed.

Wind.

60. The south-east trade winds were established early, on the 5th May, and died away about the 16th October. The maximum force was registered on the 5th June, when the wind was recorded as blowing at the rate of 18·9 miles an hour. The northerly and north-westerly trades, with light, variable breezes and calms, prevailed during the rest of the year, except from the 11th to the 14th December, when squally weather was experienced from the westward. During this stormy weather the mooring buoy of the mail steamers was carried away during a squall, when the M.M. "Oxus" was attached to it. The lighters working on the mail steamer went adrift, and one of them was lost. The local winds were evidently associated with the passage of a hurricane which caused much damage in the north of Madagascar.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Post Office Statistics, 1900 to 1904.

61. The following table shows the volume of business done in the Post Office. The progressive increase in the number of letters sent and received has been checked, due to the suspension of the regular mail service for three months outwards and homewards. During the strike of April and May at Marseilles no special action was taken to provide for an emergency mail service, but during the autumn strike, the Government, recognising the importance of getting the vanilla and coprah crops homeward and of securing supplies from Europe and from India, arranged with the British India Steamship Company to guarantee cargo to a certain value if the ships on the Bombay-Zanzibar line would call on their way across the Indian Ocean.

The leading merchants and shippers cordially supported the Government, and, in the result, four steamers called and received the full cargo guaranteed, thus relieving the Treasury from any pecuniary liability. An endeavour was also made to secure the diversion of the outward mails to Colombo, to be carried by a British India steamer *en route* for Mauritius. The Government paid £80 for the purpose, but owing to a misunderstanding in the Continental arrangement, the mails never reached Colombo:—

Letters, Papers, and Parcels.

Year	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
External—					
Letters received	57,831	65,210	68,028	71,240	67,000
Letters sent	39,879	48,649	53,768	59,700	48,000
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., received.	59,379	61,167	86,684	86,900	85,900
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., sent.	2,750	9,576	7,404	6,620	7,480
Parcels received	393	390	1,119	932	1,124
Parcels sent	422	1,369	856	656	592
Totals	160,654	186,361	219,451	226,118	210,096
Internal—					
Letters and newspapers received and sent.	—	13,997	43,463	46,624	47,853

Money Orders.

Year	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
External—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	95,295	64,302	58,587	60,412	53,323
Money Orders paid ...	16,135	22,107	19,609	16,596	10,097
Totals	111,610	86,409	78,196	77,008	63,420
Internal—					
Money Orders issued and paid.	—	—	1,258	3,889	6,426

62. The business in money orders fairly indicates the prosperity and poverty of the community; the high-water mark was reached in 1900.

The value of money orders issued depends greatly on the proportion of their wages saved by the Indian coolies and on the cash remittances to Bombay of the Indian shopkeeper.

The latter item varies with the facilities granted by the British India steamers for the transport of produce to Bombay in payment for foodstuffs. But the lowering of the standard of wages from Rs.16 a month for unskilled labour to Rs.11 has greatly diminished the remittances to the Madras coast. The percentage stands as follows: to India 41 per cent. as against 46 per cent. in 1903; the United Kingdom 23 per cent.; France 18 per cent.; Mauritius 11 per cent.; elsewhere 7 per cent.

63. The number of parcels despatched by post continues to decrease. The volume was no doubt much affected by the interruption of the regular mail service. But the decrease is mainly accounted for by the falling off in the number of parcels of vanilla sent direct on estate account by proprietors of vanilla-growing properties. The increasing indebtedness of planters tends to their consigning their produce to mortgagees, who send the produce at cargo rates. The very high charge levied by the Messageries Maritimes on parcels operates unfavourably on persons in a small way of business. The charge of Rs.3 for sending a parcel weighing less than 7 lbs. is a grievous burden.

The number of parcels from the United Kingdom steadily increases; the falling off of the number of parcels from France is accounted for by their contents being luxuries—which can be most easily dispensed with in bad times.

64. During the year the principal post office in Victoria was enlarged and the arrangements improved, to the great convenience of the public. The local distribution of letters in the rural districts is well done, but in Victoria most of the well-to-do have private boxes at the post office.

65. The local receipts from the post office during 1904 amounted to Rs.12,743, as compared with Rs.35,183 in 1903, a sum which was abnormally high through purchases by speculators and stamp-dealers, owing to the issue of new stamps. The expenditure was fixed in the estimates at Rs.12,464, but economies were effected which reduced the actual expenditure to Rs.10,095. The estimate for 1905 is fixed at Rs.9,957.

65A. The mails to and from Seychelles are carried on a monthly service by the Messageries Maritimes Company on the way to and from Mauritius, the terminal point of the special service to the French and English possessions in the Indian Ocean. The steamers leave Marseilles on the 25th of each month, and Mauritius on the 28th; the homeward steamer reaches Mahé on the 7th or 8th of the month, arriving at Marseilles on the 24th or 25th, the letters being delivered in London on the 26th or 27th. Consequently letters arrive in England two or three

days too late to allow of replies being posted to catch the outward mail. The mail from Europe arriving at Mahé on the 11th or 12th is similarly three or four days too late to allow of a reply by the homeward mail of the week. Consequently, although the actual journey is accomplished in eighteen days, it takes three months to receive an answer to a letter. The parcels post is still more inconvenient, as parcels intended to catch the mail steamer leaving Marseilles on the 25th have to be despatched from London by a subsidiary service of the Messageries Maritimes on the 10th of the month. These inconveniences have to be put up with, as there seems no possibility of the British Colonies in the Indian Ocean being served by a British Company. The service by the Messageries Maritimes is not under contract, and may be terminated at will and without notice; the agreement being that for each call the company receives a payment of 2,000 francs and exemption from all port dues or local taxes. There is the further difference that parcels of a certain weight are carried to France for Rs.1·80, but if carried on to England the charge is Rs.3·30.

In the year under review the mail service was suspended on six occasions, namely, the mail from Europe in May, August, and September, and that for Europe in June, September, and October, owing to labour disputes at the port of Marseilles. No remedy lay in the power of the Colonial Government which had to make provisional arrangements with the British India Company for five calls during the period of the strikes and with any passing steamer. The only compensation was that the Treasury saved six payments of 2,000 francs. A very serious loss was indirectly inflicted on the planters owing to the suspension of the regular service in September and October, when the vanilla crop was ready to be sent home and prices were temporarily high; the prices fell in December, and the opportunity of realising on the top of the market was lost.

66. There is no island service of telegraphs, but a cable station is established at Mahé by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company on the line to Australia. The volume of business actually transacted at Seychelles is as follows:—

Year ending 31st March	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Number of cablegrams received and sent.	2,244	2,399	2,276	2,417	2,527

This Government pays to the Company an annual subsidy of Rs.15,000 (£1,000) towards the maintenance of a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, under an agreement to be in

force for twenty years, entered into between the Imperial Government and the Company, the total subsidy amounting to £[illegible],000 per annum. The Company is not, however, a purveyor of news, but agrees to transmit news telegrams at a special rate. The Government has, therefore, to subsidize Reuter's News Agency under an agreement whereby, in return for a payment of Rs.750 (£50), Reuter contracts to supply 2,500 words per mensem. This service is well rendered.

67. The various subsidies in connection with the postal and telegraphic communication with the outside world involve a fixed outlay of Rs.44,550, or nearly 12 per cent. of the present colonial revenue. In addition, the exemption of mail steamers from all dues represents an additional sum of Rs.12,000.

IX.—GENERAL.

68. On the 31st December, 1904, the assets of the Colony included, in addition to cash balances of Rs.57,807, investments to the value of Rs.213,790, of which Rs.70,743 represented the reserve against Savings Bank deposits, and the remainder, namely Rs.200,854, lies available to provide a small reserve necessary in a Colony where the revenue is liable to extraordinary fluctuations. Against this asset, which cannot be realised with advantage owing to the depreciation of Government securities, the Colony was indebted to the Crown Agents for the Colonies in the amount of an overdraft for Rs.120,000, bearing interest at the current bank rate. In addition, the Colony is liable, under a loan for Rs.300,000 contracted in 1899 and 1900, to the payment of yearly instalments of Rs.14,816, until the principal is extinguished in 1930. The Colony has now completed a second year of agricultural and commercial depression, and is bound to make both ends meet or an estimated income for 1905 which is 14 per cent. lower than that estimated for 1904, and very much less than the actual expenditure of several previous years.

The most noteworthy feature in the expression of colonial opinion is the absence of grumbling or recrimination. It is agreed that taxation, though it presses the more heavily in times of poverty, cannot be reduced, and it is agreed that no additional taxation can be imposed on the already considerable imposts, the capital burden taxation (now £1 6*s.* 8*d.*) being in excess of the taxation in most British tropical colonies; nor has there been the least suggestion that the Colony should ask for outside help. The Government set the example in departmental retrenchment in all directions possible, and lowered the standard of wages for unskilled labour from Rs.16 a month to Rs.11. The rate of Rs.16 had been reached in the cycle of prosperity, when labour was scarce. Nowhere, probably, was the margin so large in proportion between the cost of living and the standard of wages for unskilled labour. Even at the

present rate, ranging from Rs.9 to Rs.12, there is a comfortable margin. As there is little prospect of substantial improvement in agriculture or trade, the policy of small economies must be steadily pursued and expenditure confined to works of great public need.

69. In legislation most useful work was accomplished. Although the number of Ordinances passed was the lowest for many years, the list included three important enactments, viz., the consolidation of the laws relating to mortgages and to registration and the Seychelles penal code. The last-named work marks a new departure in simplifying the bewildering mass of amendments grafted on the Code Napoléon, which has incidentally been much modified in its most draconic provisions. The terminology has been retained in many places in deference to the decisions of Court of Law in the matter of the interpretations of terms, and the alterations have been made as slight as possible in the hope that the neighbouring Colony of Mauritius may adopt a similar code. The laws of Seychelles have also been collected and issued in two volumes up to and including 1898, and are for the first time available in a compendious form for ready reference. In Section 31 of the annual report for 1903, the confusion of the laws in force in Seychelles either by enactment, by proclamation, or by implication was set forth. This work was accomplished by Mr. F. A. Herchenroder when Chief Justice of Seychelles, before promotion to the post of Procureur-General of Mauritius.

70. The schemes before the notice of the Government which are most urgent for the internal development of the Colony are: (1) the improvement of the water supply of Victoria, which is at present insufficient in dry weather, intermittent in supply, without pressure to reach the higher parts of the town, and inferior in quality. Proposals have been formulated and estimates framed for a permanent high-level service from the Grand St. Louis River which would serve the whole town and secure a pressure sufficient to deal with fires and to periodically flush out the water-courses. The cost is estimated at Rs.60,000; the correspondence and estimates have been prepared in printed form for consideration; (2) the erection of a lunatic asylum at Anse Royale, for which the site has been acquired and the plans and estimates are ready; (3) the further development of road communication, especially the improvement of gradients; (4) the clearing of the reefs which make dangerous the entrance to the small harbours of La Digue and Port Glaud; (5) a thorough exploitation of the fisheries on the banks; and (6) the acquisition of a Government schooner for the supervision of the outlying islands.

The outside needs are: more frequent and more regular communications by sea, and more reasonable rates for the transport of cargo to and from Mahé.

71. It has been a disadvantage to the inhabitants of the British Colonies in the Indian Ocean that the practice of

English speaking has not been more prevalent in the past. The boys and girls have generally received a grounding in English at school, but have lost the advantage of this knowledge through lack of opportunity for conversation. The logical bent of mind which characterises the families of French descent recognises the great advantage which must accrue from a practical knowledge of English, especially as the islands are becoming overpopulated. The fine physique of the Seychellois marks them as suitable to push the colonising of East Africa as the natural outlet for the excess population, but the limitation of language and the evil effects of the French laws of inheritance and subdivision of property tend to keep promising youths in idleness at home. It is therefore matter for congratulation that there seems to be marked advance in the desire of parents to have their children taught English, and in the improved standard of capacity to teach it among the schools.

72. The Visiting Magistrate inspected all the outlying islands during 1904, except Silhouette and North Island (which were visited by the Governor), Bird Island, Flat Island, and Frigate Island. All of these have been visited in 1903, and Silhouette, North, and Frigate Islands were inspected early in 1905. The population of outlying islands was 538; nine births were registered and six deaths (two by drowning). There was no epidemic disease on the islands; the average of wages was Rs.9·24, with the statutory scale of diet. No serious differences occurred between master and men, only six cases were brought to trial, one for theft and five for disturbances. Many of the islands are now fully planted with cocoanuts, and Silhouette, North Island, Frigate, Denis, Daros, Desroches, Poivre, Providence, and Alphonse are very fertile. The guano deposits on Remire, Marie Louise, Cow Island, and Flat Island are being exploited with profitable results; the output has averaged over 5,000 tons for some years.

73. Special recognition is due to the Honourable Members of the Legislative Council for their cordial and loyal support in the varied and difficult legislation during their term of office. Similar earnest work was performed in their honorary offices by the members of the Local Boards, the Agricultural and Prison Boards, and the Education and Quarantine Committees.

74. Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott terminated, on the 10th May, 1904, a long and successful term of office as Administrator and Governor. The writer of this report assumed duties on the 30th May.

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

Government House,
Seychelles,
30th June, 1905.

ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF BOTANIC STATION FOR THE YEAR 1904.

General Remarks.

1. From an agricultural standpoint the year under review has been affected by a prolonged drought and a corresponding shortage of crops which will extend over the next year at least. The total rainfall amounted to 106 inches, or six inches above the average, but the number of days on which rain fell was only 113 as compared with 171 for 1903. The drought commenced in the middle of February and ended in the beginning of November. In September a few showers increased the rainfall for that month to 7·13 inches, but only 2·82 inches of rain fell in October and little or no benefit was derived from the showers of September.

2. The temperature in the soil was very high during the drought, reaching at six inches below the ground in laterite soil a maximum of 111° on the 9th of September. Weeds and even endemic trees died out, principally those which are planted on steep land and which can only grow with the aid of rain. It is difficult to imagine these islands without their refreshingly green aspect and even a short drought seems to influence the growth of plants in a marked degree. If one visits them during a period of drought an erroneous deduction can be made with regard to their agricultural possibilities. The trees which suffer from the drought are principally those which are exposed to the sight of the precipitous hills. It then seems that the country is good for nothing. But as soon as the rain falls, in a comparatively short time the ground presents another aspect. In consequence of these climatic variations most persons are inclined to change their minds very often regarding the agricultural development of this colony. However, the last drought was abormally long and its effects, which cannot be measured entirely as yet, seem to have disappeared.

3. The crop of cocoanuts for 1904 is an average crop although much inferior to the preceding one, and so is the crop of vanilla. In 1905 a reduction in the crop of both products will also be felt as compared with that of 1903.

With regard to cocoanuts, the nuts which were maturing during the drought were abnormally small and in some cases 1,000 nuts produced only 260 lbs. of coprah. Few flowers were successfully pollinated in May, June, or July, but this happens more or less every year. The action of the showers of August and September on the flowers was beneficial and the shortage in the crop for 1905 will probably not extend over a long period.

Regarding vanilla, on most estates one third of the vines died out but the flowering on the remaining vines was better than usual.

In many localities flowers appeared in March, August, and November producing three distinct crops instead of one. The period of rest induced by a spell of dry weather distinctly showed its well known effects on this abnormal flowering.

In presence of a shortage in the staple productions of this colony it was decided to face reductions in the expenses of all departments.

I was asked to discontinue the experimental plantations at Capucin, and the vote for the Botanic Station and Crown Lands was reduced by one third. A few of the Crown Lands under my charge although self supporting will be put on lease next year including a portion of the famous coco-de-mer valley at Fond Ferdinand. I may add that the terms of the lease will prevent any destruction of the palms. As soon as the new lessees will take charge of the Crown Lands in question the work of the experimental plantations will be resumed on a smaller scale. The men kept for that purpose are at the present moment (April) still engaged in marking and gathering the last crop of vanilla.

The vote for the Botanic Station properly speaking does not exceed Rs.6,000 a year and amounts to 1·5 per cent. of the total expenditure of this colony. This vote is sufficient to cover the expenses of upkeep, the work of planting and laying out the grounds having been completed.

Introduction and Sale of Plants.

4. Extra expenditure has been incurred this year to introduce from Ceylon the following plants:—

First consignment, shipped on the 13th July, received by H.M.S. "Merlin":—

5,000 selected cocoanuts.
5,000 nutmeg seeds.
10,000 cocoa seeds.
2,000 cola seeds.
18 sacks of cocoa pods.

With the exception of the cocoa pods which were damaged by exposure during an exceptionally rainy voyage, these seeds arrived in very good condition.

Second consignment, shipped 22nd August, viâ. Aden:—

5,000 cocoanuts.
800 cocoa pods.
1,000 nutmeg seeds.
26,400 Para rubber seeds packed in tins.

Third consignment, shipped 22nd September, viâ. Bombay:—

2,714 cocoa pods.
71,000 Para rubber seeds.

The two last consignments were shipped during the strike at Marseilles in the service of the Messageries Maritimes. They reached Seychelles by M.M.S.S. "Djemnah" and B.I.S.S. "Loodiana" on the 12th November, *i.e.*, three months and two months respectively after shipment. It is perhaps interesting to note that the delay, which was thought to be fatal to such perishable articles as cocoa pods, Para rubber seeds, and plants in Wardian cases, has had little influence in one case of Para rubber seeds packed in charcoal and one tin of the same seeds packed dry. 2,600 plants were raised from the case of 10,000 seeds which remained two months at sea, and 400 from the tin of 2,000 seeds which was kept three months in transit. Out of the rest of the consignment only half a dozen seeds germinated. Supposing that the tins and cases were packed in the same way and with the same seeds, it seems that much remains to be studied on the question of seed vitality. The nutmeg seeds arrived in bad condition. They were attacked by the beetle, owing perhaps to the seeds having been kept too long in transit.

The total number of plants raised amounts to:—

Cocoanuts	9,076
Nutmegs	1,493
Cocoa	5,398
Cola	1,434
Rubber	2,914

The rubber seedlings were sold even immediately after they had sprouted, at the high price of 15 cents a plant.

The cocoanuts have all been purchased although endless discussions have been raised with reference to their hardiness and to the thickness of their "meat" as compared with the Seychelles nuts. If one follows the growth of the Ceylon nuts in the nursery one has little doubt with regard to both Seychelles and Ceylon nuts having the same variation in the

colouration and general appearance of the young shoot. Both nuts belong to the same variety of plants and the only difference is that one is selected with a view of (1) increasing the size of the nuts, (2) reducing the percentage of the envelopes, and the other is left to itself without selection. Regarding the thickness of the meat, I have a doubt as to whether this is not due to optical illusion. I have opened a great many nuts (about four dozen) in the presence of planters and in all cases except two the compared nuts were found to have the same thickness of meat. The diameter of the Ceylon nut being about three times greater than the diameter of the Seychelles nuts the difference in the size of the hollow gives the appearance of a difference in the thickness of the meat. By careful measurement, the real thickness of the meat is easily ascertained and shows a certain variation in both kinds of nuts. Exceptionally big nuts (especially when not quite ripe) possess a comparatively thin meat, but these nuts are found both in Ceylon and Seychelles. The coprah produced by 1,000 Ceylon ordinary nuts is about twice as much as that obtained from Seychelles nuts. This result has been obtained in the same soil, under the influence of the same climate, and is entirely due to selection. It is to be hoped that the discussion raised on the subject by the planters after their having seen the nuts introduced from Ceylon may prove the beginning of a careful selection of nuts for planting in Seychelles. Many of them have already informed me that they have found on their estates a few of their trees producing nuts similar to those of Ceylon and that they intend keeping them for propagation. It is probable that the trees which produce very small nuts have less requirements than those which produce bigger nuts, and that varieties which produce big nuts normally will bear smaller nuts if they are starved out. But when one thinks of the very trifling amount of plant food which is removed from the soil by cocoanut cultivation, there seems to be no difficulty in supplying the elements which are required to a greater extent by the big-nut varieties. The planter must choose between having small nuts without trouble and having double the crop by using proper methods of cultivation and selection.

Cola and Cacao.

5. The African political prisoners have purchased a few seedlings of cola. The varieties of cacao introduced have been most kindly selected by Messrs. Wright and Nock of Peradeniya, and as they withstand the disease it is to be hoped that cacao cultivation will be continued on a greater scale in future, and even that they will be used as stocks for grafting the local variety which contains white cotyledons only. However, the areas suitable to cacao cultivation are limited to some parts of North and South Mahé, and this industry cannot be carried on extensively. A few planters who had ordered

seedlings from the Botanic Station prior to my visiting their estates have been advised not to take up this culture owing to the soil in these localities having been too much washed out and consequently lacking in depth.

6. The following are the other plants introduced during the year which are worth mentioning:—

1. Washington navel oranges.
2. Cape oranges.
3. Medicinal aloe.
4. Camphor.
5. Bombay mangoes.

Laboratory.

7. The question of supplying the laboratory with a gas apparatus has been postponed. Work is carried on with the aid of burning spirit and petroleum oil for the present.

Investigations have been made for the public on samples of:—(1) Drinking milk (2 samples); (2) Milk (1 sample); (3) Guano (13 samples); (4) Citrate of lime (3 samples).

Most of the samples of guano have shown an excellent composition. They are characterized by absence of iron and albumina, by a percentage of carbonate of lime which is less than 3 per cent. and are evidently suitable for the manufacture of phosphatic guanos and superphosphates.

Progress of Plants.

Cocoanuts.

8. The plantation of cocoanuts for the year amounts to:—

Nuts exported...	882,044
„ converted into oil	11,096,000
„ „ „ coprah ...	1,781,333
„ „ „ soap	1,590,000
„ consumed locally	4,000,000
Total	19,349,377

This is an average crop in spite of the reduction caused by the drought.

Investigation of Disease.

9. A short time since, I was desired by the Governor to visit several important plantations of this colony and investigate into the diseased condition of the trees. What struck

me at first was the appearance of some trees which was different to the well known habit of cocoanut trees, namely, rigidity and straightness of stems and very hard wood from top to bottom. The plantations on the contrary besides containing trees bent in all directions showed some of them looking as if they were swollen at the base with the collar decaying and the tissue of the stem exuding a fermented liquid or a gum in one or several parts. These abnormal trees looked exactly as if they had been prevented from growing under normal conditions. They were stunted and very much smaller than usual considering their age. They were all growing in the shade of taller cocoanut trees, which also presented signs of the same disease, although more regular in habit, and sounder. These taller trees of 60 or 70 years of age also showed their collar in a more or less advanced state of decay. It appeared that it was the rule in these plantations to intermix trees of different ages because, besides the tall and the abnormal trees, we found a third class of trees which were planted only two or three years ago and which looked even more stunted, their collar being still more decayed and their thin stem insufficiently rooted.

The rule of having these three generations of trees in one and the same ground is brought out by the natural idea of supplying gradually the vacancies left by the timely or premature death of the older trees.

On examining the three different classes of trees, it was noticed that the pseudo-swollen and abnormal trees were only found in dense and shady plantations and also on hill sides where trees had been planted probably at a time when the soil was not yet washed away. Lack of proper nourishment appears to be the cause of the formation of the swollen and abnormal stems. On hill sides the want of sufficient soil explains the state of starvation—a cocoanut tree requiring 500 square feet for the full expansion of its roots; it will grow with difficulty on a rock. In dense plantations the abnormal stems are not only attributable to want of nourishment, but shade and insufficient space for the roots are accountable for the very slight and less rapid growth in height for the three or four years before the tree gets enough strength to make its way. It seems that the pressure of the sap in the shaded and abnormal trees does not attain sufficient intensity to supply food to all parts of the wood. Consequently the cells die out in patches.

Stem Examination.

On examining these abnormal stems and seeing in the cocoanut plantations so many cryptogamic parasites on the stems of all trees I tried to find if there was no fungus which might eventually cause the disease. In spite of several days of investigation, both externally and in all parts of the plant which

looked hypertrophied, I was unable to find a mycelium in the water-conducting organs and in the inside wood elements. I examined even patches of the stem which were decaying entirely through a serious disturbance in the conduct of food, but found no connection between these decayed parts and the wounds which were made accidentally on the trees and those which resulted from the decaying of the roots. There was no trace of the presence of those fungi called Nectria and Tricospheria, which are wound parasites, and which cause at present so many diseases in trees in this part of the world. On many old trees there were signs of the trees having been wounded and decayed in some parts but having entirely recovered, and I was shown by a few planters the process which is adopted as a curative measure when a soft pseudo-swollen stem shows signs of decay by liquid exudation, and which consists in tapping the tree simply without an ultimate tarring of the wound or removal of the boundary cells between healthy and diseased parts. This result shows that the decay is not brought about by any fungus. The swelling is only apparent, an illusion resulting from the difference in diameter of the trees which are tapering from want of nourishment and disturbance in the regular flow of sap. There are many other healthy trees which are broader at the base than the trees which look swollen.

Root Examination.

The work of investigation was divided into, first, examination of the trees which were dying amidst other diseased trees, and, second, examination of young trees which seemed healthy, for the sake of comparison. In young and comparatively-healthy plantations I found that when the stalks, leaves, husks, &c., were allowed to accumulate on or near the roots of the growing trees, the young stems showed patches of decayed bark by which larvæ of coleoptera make their entrance into the tree. The accumulation of these organic matters brings in fermentation and a rise of temperature which easily account for the killing of a certain number of young roots and the decaying of some portion of the bark. As it is well known that these stalks and husks form the natural breeding places of all beetles all the insects which were found boring the trees were examined separately.

Insect No. 1.

(1.) When a small portion of the roots near the collar is killed, a very small grub first works inside the stem causing fermentation and decay all round the trees. Near the roots which are being killed enough grubs are working to produce a ring of decayed and dead wood above the surface of the ground.

Insect No. 2.

(2.) The second weevil which I found, and of which I followed the metamorphoses as pupa and perfect insect, possesses a characteristic black appendage attached to the last segment of the abdomen, and is for this reason easily distinguishable. This black horny appendage plays a certain part in the struggle for life of this insect. The ants which are so numerous in these islands and which prey upon caterpillars and grubs cannot easily destroy this grub owing to the horny appendage which protects it whilst boring into the tree. The grubs increase in size very much, and various things go to show that it does not reach the chrysalis state before a year's time. When a cocoanut tree is once attacked by the two beetles and when its power of resistance is weakened by insufficiency of food material, light, and exposure, the decayed tissue increases in extent and the life of the tree is seriously endangered; but that is not all.

Insect No. 3.

(3.) When the decay has reached a certain stage the weevil of the Rhinoceros (black) beetle steps in and eats the dying tissue all round the external side of the stem close to the bark. This third insect lives a long time (probably about three years) in the attacked tree and thus completes the work of destruction. When a tree has been eaten through two or three feet above ground and when it is only kept up by a few sound roots, it soon shows signs of withering, and, if not blown down, its head suddenly drops. I was surprised to find so many Rhinocerous grubs in this Colony. Their number accounts for the trees becoming hollow and being easily blown down. The leaves of the cocoanut trees are attacked by them to a slighter extent in the Straits Settlements, but it may become a great source of danger in future if it is not kept in check by a parasite or by destruction.

(4.) I also found a beetle in the withering leaves and even in apparently healthy leaves of the cocoanuts, but as the grubs were in a very young stage of development, I take for granted that the trees were already dying when the leaves were attacked. The insect which thus attacks the leaves has been identified at the Imperial Institute under the name of Eugnoristus sp. It builds a cocoon with the pieces of the midrib upon which it feeds.

Very many examples have been given of the beetles only attacking trees which are injured by some other causes, but these examples have been quoted for countries where perhaps the balance of nature is not disturbed or where a great amount of insectivorous birds prey upon the insects to keep them in

check. The natural forces existing in animal and vegetable life are easily upset, and it is difficult to restore this equilibrium of nature. It is evident that many of the birds and reptiles of this colony which were formerly so useful have been destroyed by bush fires or otherwise, and this accounts to a certain extent for the increase in the invasion of beetles. These beetles breed naturally in dead wood, but we have unfortunately many instances which tend to show that the beetles if left unchecked can prey upon living wood. I have seen a perfectly healthy tree in which a groove had been made for the fixing of a railway sleeper. In less than six months the living (No. 1) had forced its way by the wound into the middle of the tree. The Black Rhinocerous beetle eats the soft part of the cocoanut leaves, and in many other tropical countries the red beetle (*Rhynocophorus*) is found in the larval state attacking the stem of the same trees. In this Colony the leaves of roses, the sap wood of Bois Noir (*Albizzia Lebbek*), and filao (*Casuarina equisetefolia*) are peculiarly liable to attacks of coleoptera. The danger in cocoanut plantations is, however, not very great, because the hardiness of the tree allows it to withstand the invasion of beetles for a long time before dying. I have seen a tree perfectly cylindrical but suddenly tapering from want of food. By counting the number of scars which are left by leaves in falling off, and taking for granted that twelve leaves are produced per annum, I came to the conclusion that the tree had probably been attacked three years before it fell down on the ground where it was examined. However, there is a certain amount of danger in the fact that at present there is in this Colony a very large number of trees which conceal in their stem the parasites which we wish to get rid of, and these breeding places are increasing every day.

Remedies.

10. The remedies must then be twofold:—(1) The bringing of the trees to a higher power of resistance by supplying the food material which is exhausted in the soil. (2) The destruction of the parasites which we can reach. It is to my mind impossible to separate the two remedies. However, the second remedies are to be taken first, because the number of beetles have increased to such an extent owing to their having obtained new breeding places (*i.e.*, the cocoanut stem, in which they are to some extent out of the reach of their natural enemies) that they are not only saprophytes, but really parasites, and that they can injure even plantations which are healthy. On the other side, the bringing of trees to a higher power of resistance can only be obtained at a slow rate, and we have reached a point at which the beetles should not be given any liberty of action or time to propagate on a greater scale.

Destruction of Beetles.

The first remedy, that is, the extermination of beetles, should be sought by destroying their breeding places in all plantations. All dead leaves, stalks, and husks should be put evenly all over the ground apart from the cocoanut trees, and buried in rows with a good sprinkling of lime on top.

Although not in favour of burning the rubbish, because organic matters are so useful in the ground, I see no objection to reduce the bulk by fire before laying it. There has been such an accumulation of rubbish in all plantations for the last eight or ten years that the removal of part of the organic matter is not very prejudicial to the plantations. The fallen stems which are found in so great number since the disease has commenced should be gradually split and burned as soon as they are dry enough. These decayed trunks have little value as manure and, on the other hand, contain so many parasites that one is entitled to burn them without hesitation. At first sight it seems a difficult task to burn the dead wood at present found in the plantations, but when once started, a plantation of fifty acres is kept clean by a single man whose time is wholly devoted to such work. It is a surprise to find nowadays a tree which is not diseased. This fact alone is sufficient warrant for the employment of a man devoted only to the checking of the disease in all plantations.

I do not think it is necessary to extend the work of destroying the beetles by burning that part of the tree which is damaged when the tree is still living. A great amount of injury is caused to the tree by burning close to the sound part, the sap exudes freely, the tissues are softened and soon after attacked by the other beetles which abound in the plantations. The hollowed trees, however, should be cleaned by a wide opening, the insects found destroyed, and, when the trees have fallen, promptly dealt with by fire. The smaller beetles do not prey upon the fallen trees all the way up, and the attacked portion only should at once be cut into pieces and burnt. The burning of that part of the fallen tree which is attacked is essential if any steps are taken against the beetles. They are at the point of hatching out and propagating when the tree falls down. Trees which can recover should be coated with some material to prevent the laying of the eggs and the emergence of the adult. It is recommended by Sir D. Morris for this purpose to dissolve 2 lbs. of whale oil soap in a gallon of hot water to which a pint of crude carbolic acid is added. Then 10 gallons of water are added and enough clay to make a thick paste. The mixture is smeared on the trunk. A special mention should be made of the importance of insect collecting whilst measures of destruction are adopted against them. Boys on the estates should be shown samples of the injurious insects and every means adopted to exterminate the adults as soon as they are discovered.

MANURING.

The second class of remedies lies in the giving of sufficient power of resistance to trees. This can be obtained at no great cost. The total weight of a cocoanut tree and the weight of the products during 30 years amounts to (according to Mr. Lefevre):—

—	Weight.		Mineral matters.
	lbs.		
Roots	21·44	... containing	0·64
Trunk	482·40		41·38
Leaves	2,241·23		216·71
Tunics	77·18		1·50
Peduncles	170·12		10·85
Spatches	217·96	flower envelopes	8·98
Husks	3,082·00		187·38
Kernel	2,139·98		23·54
Water	1,259·60		320
Totals ...	10,405·70		504·07

of dried material.

One is struck by the difference in composition which exists between the various parts of the tree, especially as regards the salts contained in the kernel, water, husks, and leaves.

The elements drawn up annually by those deciduous parts of the cocoanut tree which are removed from an acre of land by 75 trees bearing 40 nuts per tree are put down in Ceylon as follows:—

—	Husk.	Shell.	Kernel.	Water.	Total.
Chloride of sodium... ...	17·08	0·70	4·53	1·81	24·12
Salts of potash	225·12	13·96	23·73	2·41	265·22
Phosphates of lime... ...	3·01	0·35	9·42	1·00	12·78
Lime	56·28	1·05	0·70	0·00	58·03

In Seychelles the leaves and stalks are left in the fields, but the husks are removed from one place to another and heaped along the roadsides. Practically, therefore, the above figures represent the amount of mineral matter drawn up annually from the ground without being re-introduced. If we admit that Seychelles soils have been planted for a century, we come to very high figures for the exhaustion of the soil in potash, and it would not be surprising to find that the cocoanuts are suffering from a potash famine. The annual

quantity of chloride of sodium drawn up is re-introduced by rain which contains much salt near the sea. The phosphates and lime should be restored to the soil by the use of guano—1 cwt. per acre per annum, or 1 ton for 20 years—cost R.1.25.

The organic matters supplied by green manuring will cost Rs.6 an acre, one man being employed for 24 acres. Pigeon pea, cow pea, velvet bean, wild indigo produce about two tons of green material per acre. With regard to potash, allowing that the salts of potash contain about 50 per cent. of potash, the annual quantity of potash drawn up by the cocoanut tree and principally by the husks amounts to 132 lbs. We think that one half this quantity will be found in the material supplied by green manuring. The other half, viz., 66 lbs., should be supplied by 6 tons of sea-weed at R.1 per ton, or by 132 lbs. of ashes; or, again, if parts of the husks are left in the fields, by 100 lbs. of kainit, worth Rs.4.

The total expenditure for restoring the elements annually drawn up amounts to Rs.14 as an approximate maximum.

The whole question of manuring depends on the possibility of adding these substances which are missing at a cost which is less than that at which new fertile soils can be procured. As no fertile soils can be purchased at less than Rs.14 an acre in this Colony, it is impossible to allow old plantations to disappear and make new ones. But in manuring at the maximum cost of Rs.14 an acre, it should not be forgotten that in a few years the increase in the crops outweighs the total expenditure incurred annually. Manures should be supplied by spreading them evenly over the whole surface of the ground and buried by tilling the soil to make it more porous and aerated.

Selection of plants should also be adopted if any steps are taken to improve the condition of the cocoanut trees. Starved plants do not yield a strong progeny.

Cotton and Tobacco.

11. Cotton cultivation locally is still in the experimental stage. It has little chance to emerge from that stage so long as tobacco cultivation will prove more profitable in the outlying islands, to which the cultivation of both plants is well adapted. I do not think, however, that tobacco which is produced for local consumption can be cultivated on a greater scale than it is at present, unless it is exported. This question will soon be settled; samples of tobacco and cotton having been sent home for valuation and the price of both articles being known there will be no difficulty in putting figures before the public. Many attempts have been made to export Seychelles

tobacco to Mauritius without success. This year the price of tobacco in Mahé has fallen to 25 cents a pound. At this price the profit per acre is reduced to Rs.200—a very low return for tobacco cultivation. If the plant is cultivated on a greater scale next year much tobacco will remain unsold. It is far better under the present conditions of the market for both products to keep to tobacco cultivation in Mahé, where there is enough room to supply the local market, and devote the outlying islands to cotton cultivation.

There are three varieties of cotton already introduced and grown for experimental purposes, viz.:—

—	—	Local name.
Gossypium purpurascens ...	Wild cotton	Cotton des iles.
„ barbardense ...	Sea island	Cotton sea island.
„ Brasiliense ...	Kidney cotton	Cotton Périchon.

Seeds of Egyptian cotton were received late in the year from the British Cotton Growing Association and will be experimented with next year. Many planters have applied for seeds of cotton to the Botanic Station. Experiments have been carried on with success both on Mahé and on the outlying islands. The results obtained in one island from Sea Island seeds received from Messrs. Vilmorin Andrieux & Cie. show in a certain measure the difference of growth which is obtained in the two localities. The plants are eight feet on the guano island and less than four feet in Mahé after five months' growth. The crop will probably show the same difference. In Mahé the cotton worm was found badly infesting the fields. It is, however, easily kept in check—in one experiment by using Paris green and lime. This worm was not found in the guano island in question, where another moth did some ravage in attacking the bolls and destroying parts of the seeds. In other islands both insects are said to be present. They have been sent home for identification. It is unfortunate that, owing to the comparatively great distance at which the most important guano islands are found, it is not easy to make periodical visits, and one must rely on the hearsay evidence of persons who at present take little or no interest in the question. Steps are being taken to plant Sea Island cotton in the Amirantes and Astove, where cotton is indigenous. The experiments were started too late this year to give any reliable results. The samples which were sent home to the Imperial Institute and which were produced by wild plants of Gossypium purpurascens (at Astove) have been very favourably reported upon. The commercial experts found this cotton of very good colour and of a character and quality which would ensure a ready sale. The value of the material was estimated at 5*d.* per

pound, middling American cotton being quoted at 3¾*d.* per pound on the same date.

One planter who had intended cultivating 1,000 acres this year has fallen dangerously ill, and his *locum tenens* has not the same confidence in cotton cultivation.

The other planters although more or less confident in the results already obtained have not the same means of devoting their attention to the cultivation of the outlying islands, for which a certain amount of capital and the possession of a good vessel are necessary. The guano islands nearer to Mahé will only be planted in cotton if tobacco is less profitable. The fact that two pounds of tobacco are not worth much more than a pound of Sea Island cotton already deserves the attention of their proprietors.

Lime Industries.

12. The following analyses show the composition of limes and bigarades grown at the Botanic Station:—

—	Limes: citrus medica var. acida.	Bigarades: citrus limonellus.
Weight of 1 fruit	grs. ·55	grs. 20·03
Weight of 100 fruits ...	k. 5·500	k. 2·003
which by hand pressing yield—		
Juice (density 1,030) ...	2·719	(density 1,035) 0·869
Seeds	·185	0 261
Rind	2·275	0·754
Loss	0·421	0·119
Total ...	5·500	2·003
The juice contains per litre :—		
Full acid	91·0	94·15
Combined	3·5	0·15
Total	94·5	94·30

Many planters are of opinion that 2,000 limes can be produced from one tree, from which, by calculation, I find that 4,800 kilos. of acid or 7,500 kilos. of citrate of lime can be obtained.

Counting only 1,000 fruits per tree, 100 trees to the acre, and only 3 kilos. of citrate (instead of the theoretical figure of 3·750), the production of citrate per acre amounts to 2 casks of 305 kilos. each worth Rs.225.

The cost of manufacture per cask of 305 kilos is the following:—

	Rs.
Limes, 100,000 at R.1 per 100	100
Lime	5
Labour, 2 men at Rs.12	24
Freight	20
Cask	5
	154

Profit per cask, Rs.225-154 = Rs.71.

Profit per acre in the factory, Rs.2 × 71 = Rs.142.

Profit per acre in the fields, 200,000 limes, Rs. 200.

Bigarades produce 4,000 fruits per tree and grow easily on the exhausted red laterites of Seychelles where nothing else is grown. The juice obtained is darker in colour and the citrate derived from it is slightly brown.

Samples roughly prepared by two planters with ordinary lime (which is very poor in Seychelles) have been found to contain—

citrate	49.70	.....	52.50
carbonate	19.57	.....	22.20

(excess of lime).

I find on the above statement that lime industries can be established in this Colony, not only because there is a handsome margin of profit for both planter and factory manager, but also on account of the fruits producing at the same time by-products which can be exported (salted rinds), and because the trees come into bearing in December and January (principal crop) when vanilla is already cured and exported.

Pine-apples.

13. The pine-apple suckers received from Dominica on the 12th October, 1902, have fruited this year, with the exception of Maipari, which shows no sign of flowering as yet. The first which flowered was the Queen, which has the appearance and growth of the well-known Victoria or Mauritius pine. The fruit was by mistake gathered before maturity by a coolie and sold during my absence. It differs, however, from the Mauritius pine by the presence of slips at the base of the fruits which are never found in the latter variety. Moreover, one slip was thornless, whilst the suckers produced by Mauritius pines are always thorny. The La Brea pines (two suckers)

flowered next in October, or two years after planting, and, although they had suffered from the exceptional drought of eight months, the fruits produced were very handsome, being well shaped, golden, and ripening evenly, but they were not comparable in taste and succulence to the Mauritius pine. The La Brea pines have so far the defect of having innumerable slips at the base of the fruits which are soon covered by them. By removing the slips from one of the fruits soon after they had sprouted I obtained a better fruit in shape and colour although but slightly bigger in size. The bigger fruit weighed 5½ lbs.

The Black Antigua (one sucker) also flowered in October. It produced also a very handsome fruit of 7 lbs., which ripened from bottom to top instead of ripening uniformly over the whole surface like the La Brea pines. The colour of the Black Antigua is blackish green when unripe. The crown is small and blackish red. The fruit when ripe is of good yellow colour but not less golden than La Brea. The slips and suckers are not numerous.

The White Dominica (one sucker) produced the best flavoured pine of the consignment in January, 1905 (27 months after planting). It is so far a small pine of 3 lbs., but of good shape, although slightly conical and ripening to a very rich colour. It produced no suckers but only slips.

The Brea Head produced a curiously shaped pine of 5 lbs., which was nearly spherical with very prominent eyes and a small crown, but it lacked the flavour of the Mauritius pine. This variety produces also but few suckers and slips and seems very hardy.

The Ceylon varieties have produced fruit similar to the local Maingard (Kew pine). The Singapore varieties have not yet fruited. The West Indian pines which were so kindly forwarded by Sir D. Morris, K.C.M.G., are being actively propagated with the hope that their flavour will be improved. It seems to me that even with local varieties the flavour of pines is very variable, and that much remains to be done with these plants by good methods of selection and cultivation.

Rubber.

14. Amongst the rubber plants introduced, viz., Assam, Panama, West African, Para, and Ceara, I have no hesitation at present to state that Para is the best. Ceara rubber which grows so well during the first year makes little growth afterwards, whilst Para rubber continues thriving after the first year and seems to withstand the drought better than any plant growing in Seychelles. West African rubber (Funtumia Elastica) is not attacked by the caterpillar and ranks next to

Para with regard to vegetation. Assam and Panama make slow growth and seem to require better soil. Panama rubber, even at 1,300 feet altitude, where it made good growth in the first year (1903), suffers from the drought and is distinctly inferior to Para at the same elevation.

Regarding Para rubber, trees of two years from seed measure 10 inches in circumference at the base and 17 feet in height. Trees of the same age planted in good rubber soil (marshy ground) have reached a growth which is not much surpassed in other colonies where rubber cultivation is undertaken.

All the plants available at the Botanic Station (viz., 2,930) have been purchased at the very high price of 15 cents a seedling by six planters (two in Praslin and four in Mahé). Upon my recommendation a planter has introduced seeds on his own account and succeeded in planting 3,000 seedlings this year. The total number of Para plants already introduced into Seychelles exceeds 8,000 seedlings. The plants being still in great demand one can say that the industry is established. Many planters are still anxious to know if the Para plants introduced will produce rubber. This is the only objection raised by those who are opposed to rubber planting. When three years ago this culture was advocated by the Government the objection was that the plants would not grow. It is to be hoped that the second problem will be solved with as little difficulty as the first, but it will take some time, and during the interval much precious time is lost in useless discussion. It is also stated by pessimists that rubber will soon be over-produced, but in the judgment of experts there is nothing to justify this opinion. On the contrary it is continually put forward that the sources of wild rubber are decreasing and the consumption is increasing a hundredfold. I really do not see that there is any industry better adapted to the soil and climate of Seychelles than the culture of Para rubber.

Timber.

15. 10,773 seedlings of timber trees have been purchased this year from the Botanic Station and planted on various estates near Victoria. It is desirable that this planting of trees should be continued every year, not only because the slopes of mountains without trees are very rapidly turned into bare rocks, but also because the water supply in town is becoming more and more deficient every year. According to the results obtained up to date on Government land, the trees which I have recommended are Casuarina, Eucalyptus tereticornis and alba, Indian lilac and Albizzia Moluccana. Albizzia, one of the best green-manuring trees, should take the lead for reafforesting grounds which are destined to be planted again in the future. A tree at the Botanic Station has reached

in three years a girth of four feet at breast height and has fruited already. The science of green manuring in the tropics is new to planters, but the results are so beneficial that in countries where the rainfall is sufficient the percentage of poor soils can easily be reduced to a minimum. According to the results obtained at Gangaroowa, in Ceylon, by Mr. Herbert Wright, one can introduce every year into an acre of land, at a cost of a few rupees, from 5 to 10 tons of green manure. With velvet beans (mucuna), cow pea (dolichos), and pigeon pea (cajanus), I have obtained 2 to 3 tons of green twigs per acre. Such results are unknown in Europe, and will eventually place cultivation in the tropics on a different footing if green manuring is universally adopted.

Indian lilac, Casuarina, and Eucalyptus have thrived in soils nearly ruined by cassava planting. The other trees of slower growth which produce better wood, like Vateria teak, have made insufficient growth in the same soil during the year and have suffered heavily from the drought.

These trees can be cultivated only in rich soils which are not deprived of humus.

Vanilla.

13. The experiments on the manuring of vanilla have been started this year, a vote of Rs.1,000 having been provided for the purpose. The cemented basins had hardly been built when I was obliged to delay the experiments. In the month of August I was able to continue, and after the first rains of September the vines were planted in the basins. The cost of the experiments has not exceeded Rs.400 as yet. They will take a certain time—three years at least. No definite information can be supplied to the public before the end of that period. I shall not lose sight of an important communication which has been made in Europe this year with regard to this question of manuring vanilla. It appears that a fungus in humus lives in partnership inside the root cells of most orchids, which are nourished from that source, the fungus producing accessory formations (mycorrhiza) in a way like the nodules of leguminous plants.

R. Dupont,

Curator, Botanic Station.

3rd May, 1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
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429	Gold Coast, Northern Territories	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados...	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 & 1903–1904
441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia...	1903
444	Basutoland	1903–1904
445	Leeward Islands...	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda...	1904
448	St. Helena	"
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar...	"
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
455	British Honduras	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica...	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

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No. 489.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 456.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1906.

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No. 489.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 456.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
22nd May, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1905, to which is annexed a report by Mr. R. Dupont, the Curator of the Botanic Station.

I have, &c.,
W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

1125 Wt 23907 8/06 D & S 5 25330 A 2

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1905 amounted to Rs.375,779, a total short of the Estimate by Rs.18,628, and of the actual receipts in 1904 by Rs.7,317. The failure of the revenue was due to the continued shrinking of imports and a consequent falling-off in Customs receipts, which were Rs.27,143 below the Estimate and Rs.16,165 below the Customs receipts in 1904. The causes to which this falling-off is due were the occurrence of a severe drought for the second year in succession, and the consequent failure of the crops of cocoanuts and vanilla, and the continued depression in the world's markets in the price of vanilla. The revenue for 1906 has been estimated at Rs.379,458.

2. The expenditure of the Colony in 1905 had been estimated at Rs.384,330, against which the expenditure on the Estimates was Rs.383,691, to which must be added a vote of Rs.10,000, sanctioned during the year for the acquisition of the buildings and premises used for Government purposes at Anse Royale, in South Mahé, making a total of Rs.393,691.

The actual expenditure in 1905 exceeded the actual revenue by Rs.17,912. The estimate of expenditure for 1906 has been fixed at Rs.376,695.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1901	486,323	401,521
1902	437,465	497,479
1903	467,668	516,331
1904	383,096	447,939
1905	375,779	393,691

4. The revenue and expenditure of the Local Boards of Health, established for the Central District (town of Victoria), for the South Mahé District, and for the Islands of Praslin and La Digue, are now included in the general statements of revenue and expenditure. In terms of Ordinance No. 32 of

1902, the Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. These Boards, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, are composed of a number of the most prominent persons, unofficial and official, whose interests are identified with those of the respective districts, under nomination by the Governor. Large powers of self-government entrusted to them have been wisely and satisfactorily used.

The votes allocated to the Local Boards in the Estimates for 1904 are as follows:—

Name of Boards.	Amount.	Actual Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Central District	19,070	18,109
South Mahé	3,940	3,867
Praslin	2,284	1,981
La Digue	1,904	1,773
Total	27,198	25,730

The total working for the year shows a saving of Rs.1,468 on the grants assigned to the Boards; the actual expenditure presents economies to the amount of Rs.8,941, as compared with the expenditure in 1904, and of Rs.14,740, as compared with that of 1903. The grants for 1906 have been further reduced to Rs.24,380.

Details of Revenue 1904 *and* 1905.

5. The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1904 and 1905:—

Head of Receipts.	1904.	1905.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	184,022 45	167,857 19
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	7,016 39	6,301 99
3. Licences, &c.	47,618 97	49,110 58
4. Taxes	63,110 53	62,871 43
5. Fees of Court, &c.	24,915 60	27,767 45
6. Post Office	12,743 30	17,265 40
7. Rents of Government Property	14,924 00	13,870 16
8. Interest	9,050 05	10,262 10
9. Miscellaneous	19,695 13	20,472 65
Total	383,096 42	375,778 95

6. The only remarkable variation has been the falling-off in the receipts for Customs, and the falling-off is the more serious because there has been no variation in the tariff, and the receipts in 1903 were as high as Rs.230,225. The Customs receipts generally indicate most clearly the purchasing power of the community in the preceding year. The Seychelles community traded beyond its resources, on the strength of the inflated prices of vanilla from 1898 to 1900 and of the large crops obtained from 1900 to 1903. A continuous fall in the value of vanilla has now reduced the price for Seychelles vanilla until the average price of 1900 (Rs.33·06) fell to an average price of Rs.5·87 in 1905; and this fall of price has coincided with a period of reduced crops in 1904-6.

As a consequence, the community has suddenly lost its principal source of wealth, and until the place of vanilla has been replaced by cocoanut products and rubber, the spending capacity of the Colony must remain, if not at its present low level, at least much below the abnormally prosperous period which ended in 1902. There are now signs of improvement in the development of cocoanut properties, in the good promise shown by the young rubber plantations and in the exploitation of guano phosphates. The season of 1906—in contrast with the disastrous droughts of 1904 and 1905—has been favoured with abundance of rain, and, although the flowering season for the vanilla crop of 1907 has not yet arrived, there are hopeful signs that 1906 may prove the last of the series of unfortunate years.

The improvement in the postal revenue is due to fact that mail communication was twice interrupted for long periods in 1904 by strikes in Marseilles.

Details of Expenditure 1904 *and* 1905.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1904 and 1905:—

Heads of Service.	1904.		1905.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	25	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	13,891	08	12,454	30
3. Governor and Legislature	23,941	32	23,343	69
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	18,538	04	17,839	55
5. Audit Department	5,253	25	5,154	58
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	14,989	78	13,950	04
7. Legal Department	35,625	92	36,981	23
8. Police Department	37,739	81	33,395	03
9. Prison	11,479	95	14,529	97
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	31,446	20	29,790	63
11. Ecclesiastical Department	12,044	29	8,531	92
Carried forward ...	219,765	89	210,787	19

Heads of Service.	1904.		1905.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
Brought forward ...	219,765	89	210,787	19
12. Education Department	29,186	99	27,930	27
13. Printing Department...	4,785	17	3,511	15
14. Post Office Department	10,094	71	9,021	05
15. Transport	903	50	1,992	06
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department.	15,570	44	9,023	73
17. Local Board, Central District	25,177	87	18,108	64
18. do. South Mahé	4,903	60	3,867	12
19. do. Praslin	2,254	37	1,980	55
20. do. La Digue	2,335	10	1,773	13
21. Exchange and cost of Remittances... ...	3,378	31	2,443	68
22. Miscellaneous	23,195	33	13,656	41
23. Telegraphs and Steamer Subsidies	38,550	00	44,550	00
24. Public Works Department	13,204	82	12,572	61
25. do. Recurrent	24,482	79	15,190	73
26. do. Extraordinary	30,150	49	17,282	30
Total	447,939	38	393,690	62

8. The policy of retrenchment inaugurated on the occurrence of the severe drought of 1904 has been steadily pursued throughout 1905. All departments have effected substantial savings in working expenses, and the expenditure on public works has been largely curtailed. It has not been easy to reduce the cost of establishments, as many officers are paid on an incremental scale, but whenever any opportunity has offered, posts have been abolished, and every vacancy has resulted in a reduction of expenditure. The items included under the head "Other Charges"—where economies could be effected without the infringement of vested interests—have been reduced from an actual expenditure of Rs.319,184 in 1903 to an estimate of Rs.183,679 in 1906—a saving of Rs.135,505, or 37 per cent.

The slight increase in the actual expenditure in the Legal Department is due to incremental increases in salaries. The increase in the Prison Vote, which is coincident with substantial economies in administration, is due to the large number of persons who used to pay fines for offences, but now, owing to their poverty, have to go to prison.

The increase under the head "Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies" is due to the resumption by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes of their regular monthly service, interrupted in 1904 by strikes at Marseilles.

The agreement with the company is based on a payment of 2,000 francs for each call inwards and outwards.

9. The following table shows the assets and liabilities of the Colony from 1896 to 1905:—

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	Rs. cts.	
1896	15,488 01	Excess of Liabilities over Assets.
1897	2,017 04	Surplus of Assets over Liabilities.
1898	67,436 73	" "
1899	126,426 26	" "
1900	236,513 85	" "
1901	339,762 22	" "
1902	288,323 24	" "
1903	224,910 40	" "
1904	160,007 33	" "
1905	141,509 62	" "

The assets are represented by Rs.111,000 in cash and by Rs.336,724 in investments—Rs.268,924 in British and Colonial stock, and Rs.67,800 invested locally on the security of first mortgage on real estate under the provisions of the Loans to Planters Ordinance, No. 4 of 1904. These sums are fully secured. Advances due represent Rs.9,945.

The liabilities are represented by an overdraft with the Crown Agents (Rs.20,500), bearing interest at the current bank-rate; deposits, principally in the Savings Bank (Rs.84,833); and sundry unsettled advances (Rs.7,550).

The year has been the worst since 1897, and it has only been by dint of the most strenuous economy in detail that the balance of assets over liabilities has been maintained with so slight a decrease.

The Colony had a cycle of five prosperous years (1899-1903), but 1904 was a very unfortunate year, owing to the collapse of the market for vanilla and a prolonged drought. Then followed 1905 with another prolonged drought and still deeper depression in the market for vanilla.

The agricultural interests have experienced a set back which it will take years of patience and enterprise to neutralise; but, although for yet another year the crop of vanilla has failed and it may be difficult to make both ends meet in 1906, there are signs of renewed prosperity in the early future.

The loans to planters, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, have been a great boon to those planters whose affairs were not hopelessly involved. Loans were practically not obtainable locally; credit from Europe had ceased; and there existed no banking institutions; consequently, during the past two years, while planters have been devoting their energy to new products, there has been deep poverty among all classes.

10. The public debt, which consists of a loan of £20,000 (Rs.300,000), negotiated in 1899, is repayable, with interest at 2½ per cent., in thirty annual instalments of £987 15*s.* 9*d.* (Rs.14,816·25), of which six have now been paid.

The market value on the 31st December, 1905, of the investment of the Government balances was £17,977 7*s.* 4*d.* The face value of the stock, yielding a fraction over three per cent. interest, is £18,644 2*s.* 2*d.*

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports without specie	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245
1902	861,159	943,819	1,094,268	1,237,405
1903	966,641	1,024,641	825,525	968,325
1904	829,211	905,171	724,187	801,894
1905	789,785	823,452	808,032	848,744

Imports.

12. The declared value of imports in 1905 was Rs.789,785, exclusive of specie of the value of Rs.33,667. This total is the lowest since 1896, when the imports showed a shrinkage to Rs.710,359, in consequence of the complete failure of the vanilla crop in the previous year. The highest figures recorded appear in the return for 1901 (Rs.1,149,646), following on two years of very high prices for vanilla.

Excluding specie—Rs.30,000 of which was represented by a remittance of rupees in exchange for worn out notes of the Government of Mauritius—the goods imported were derived from the following sources:—United Kingdom, Rs.259,702, or 33 per cent.; British Possessions, Rs.365,420, or 46 per cent.; France, Rs.148,949, or 19 per cent.; and other countries—mainly Madagascar, Germany, and Réunion—Rs.15,714, or 2 per cent. The proportion of imports from the United King-

dom has increased by 8 per cent., while that from British Possessions has fallen by 9 per cent. The percentage of imports from France is stationary. A total value of Rs.414,365, or 52 per cent. of the total, was imported viâ the Suez Canal; the proportion in 1904 was only 44 per cent., the difference being accounted for by the diminution in food stuffs obtained from India.

13. The following comparative table indicates the movements in trade, as regards imports from the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries (specie excluded):—

Comparative Table of Imports Exclusive of Specie.

—	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
United Kingdom...	204,462	259,702	55,240	—
India	335,706	275,122	—	60,584
Mauritius and its Dependencies...	96,486	73,701	—	22,785
Aden	21,161	13,301	—	7,860
Zanzibar and East Africa ...	3,019	2,427	—	592
Other British Possessions ...	665	869	204	—
France	158,319	148,949	—	9,370
Madagascar and Dependencies ...	4,235	6,771	2,536	—
Réunion	2,921	3,434	513	—
Pondichéry	1,715	—	—	1,715
Germany	251	4,898	4,647	—
Other European Countries ...	271	611	340	—
Total	829,211	789,785	63,480	102,906

British imports are of a very varied character; half the value is represented in coal (Rs.47,204, a slight falling-off from 1904), iron goods (Rs.46,100, a marked increase), and cotton goods (Rs.36,947, also a very large increase). Of the smaller items, necessaries remain stationary, luxuries have decreased. From India, the importation of rice has fallen off by nearly 30 per cent., the difference between Rs.239,232 and Rs.173,178; nothing could better illustrate the universal poverty in 1905, when rice, as the staple article of food, was abandoned to the extent of nearly one-third in favour of locally-grown cassava or manioc, which costs merely labour to produce. The trade with France had been the first to fall off; the figures for wines, spirits, and haberdashery having fallen by Rs.50,000 in 1904. The figures are not materially changed in detail, except that "articles de mode" have also fallen in value. A preferential agreement exists whereby "articles de mode" and French wines are admitted at a reduced rate in return for the admission into France of vanilla at the minimum tariff for articles of foreign origin.

Comparative Table of Principal Imports, 1904 *and* 1905.

14. The following table furnishes a comparative statement of the principal articles imported in 1904 and 1905, and the places of origin:—

Articles.	United Kingdom.		India.		Mauritius.		Aden.		France.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coal	51,585	47,204	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coffee	—	—	3,440	5,556	—	291	9,961	12,894	405	—
Cotton goods	14,428	36,947	24,335	33,033	430	31	178	—	12,598	9,988
Flour	—	—	19,125	23,003	1,773	175	1,370	—	18	—
Haberdashery and millinery	12,697	12,115	5,367	5,902	1,015	1,385	475	150	15,182	22,797
Iron goods	24,358	46,100	120	551	716	1,148	34	—	12,068	4,917
Lamps, hardware, and cutlery	4,960	1,697	465	172	32	60	10	—	2,277	570
Leather, boots and shoes	3,161	3,822	791	424	365	947	—	—	3,244	4,232
Provisions	8,215	3,631	329	632	1,316	816	—	—	4,810	1,568
Rice	—	—	239,232	173,178	6,616	320	3,853	—	2	54
Soap	204	328	2,442	4,063	272	2	—	—	425	600
Spirits of all kinds	7,868	4,019	—	—	17,082	9,594	—	—	3,708	3,036
Sugar	—	—	586	500	41,853	43,233	434	—	—	—
Wine of all kinds	263	354	—	—	127	1	—	—	29,407	31,669
Articles de mode	6,187	8,437	9,167	3,896	87	87	1,286	27	23,008	13,686

Exports.

15. The declared value of exports in 1905 was Rs.808,032, exclusive of specie, which was exported to the value of Rs.40,711. The movements in specie (imported Rs.33,667 and exported Rs.40,711) practically balance each other; a check has been placed on the drain of silver to India, which has in past years created local inconvenience by causing a scarcity of coin. A lack of produce to export in payment for imports, and the difficulty and cost of freight outward still cause a large adverse balance in the postal and money order business; the remittances by orders being Rs.75,329, as compared with only Rs.10,144 received. A further sum of nearly Rs.70,000 is sent away in notes insured under registered cover.

The value of exports is better than in 1904, which was the worst year since 1891. The declarations at the Customs on exports are, as regards certain articles of export, considerably under-valued, notably in the case of guano. Were exports subjected to the same rigorous examination as imports, it would be shown that the exports in 1905 considerably exceed in value the imports.

Comparative Table of Principal Exports for 1904 *and* 1905.

16. The declared value at the Custom House of the principal exports in 1904 and 1905, and of the places to which Colonial produce was exported, is shown in the following table:—

Comparative Table of principal Exports.

	Cacao.		Cocoanuts, including Cocos de Mer.		Cocoanut Oil.		Coprah.		Guano.		Salt Fish.		Soap.		Tortoise Shell.		Vanilla.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905	1904.	1905.
United Kingdom ..	Rs. 2,232	Rs. 1,085	Rs. —	Rs. 32	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 1,959	Rs. 8,439	Rs. 10,500	Rs. 15,000	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. 22,048	Rs. 17,798	Rs. 130,592	Rs. 137,185
France	1,106	531	438	912	360	898	40,985	40,810	25,130	—	—	—	—	—	10,527	12,892	148,446	136,462
Mauritius	32	—	11,534	8,953	110,701	138,706	800	134	41,000	7,830	3,198	862	—	—	750	917	8,987	64
India	—	—	1,831	937	46,721	46,094	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Zanzibar	—	—	—	—	—	6,919	—	—	—	—	—	20	35,996	45,889	—	—	—	—
Madagascar*	—	—	395	766	8,497	37,773	—	—	—	—	230	143	20,016	54,603	—	—	—	—
Aden	—	—	2,089	863	5,628	11,688†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	—	—	—	—
Réunion	—	—	183	767	—	7,747	—	320	—	—	2,644	4 081	400	—	—	—	—	—
Belgium	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,500	14,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ceylon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mombasa	—	—	200	—	430	246	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,417	—	—	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,400	8,400
Natal	—	—	1,158	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	19	—	27	—	—	—	—	—
Germany	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	765

* Including Nossi-Bé. † For transhipment eastward.

17. The striking features in the foregoing statement are the continued collapse of vanilla, the staple export of this Colony for many years; the gradual rise of cocoanut products to take its place; and the reduction—temporarily only—of the volume of guano phosphates exported. The melancholy record of the rise and fall of the vanilla enterprise is examined more fully in the following paragraph, and the building up of a trade in cocoanut products is examined in the next succeeding paragraph.

Vanilla may have a future; in no place are the conditions of nature more favourable than in Seychelles; but, for the present, it is of little value, and the crop of 1906 is so small that it cannot be expected to exceed 20,000 kilos.

The cocoanut plantations, if properly tended and scientifically treated, might yield double the quantity exported in 1905, and the figures for 1906 will show a large increase. The Colony, however, might enormously add to its resources were capital found for the development of rubber cultivation, for which the soil and climate are as suitable as any to be found in Ceylon. Meanwhile, it is not improbable that the exploitation of guano and phosphatic rock may develop into a very important and valuable industry.

18. Vanilla has long held the pride of place at the head of the products of Seychelles. In 1905, it has been displaced by cocoanut products, which have been exported to the value of Rs.413,951, whereas vanilla has fallen in value to Rs.282,876. The quantity exported was more than I had anticipated, being 48,208 kilos, or over 100,000 lbs., but the actual crop did not exceed 36,000 kilos, the surplus consisting of the balance of the crops of 1903 and 1904, which had been held up for better prices. The crop for 1906 will not exceed 20,000 kilos, and there is only a very small stock of old vanilla held locally. The cause of the falling-off in crops in 1904, 1905, and 1906 is the period of drought in 1904, which destroyed one-third of the vines and reduced the vitality of the remainder. The crop of 1904 had been expected, judging from the flowering season of 1903, to be normal, viz., 60,000 kilos, but in consequence of the drought it reached 45,000 kilos only. The drought of 1904 checked the flowering for 1905, and a crop of 36,000 kilos was the result. A repetition of the period of drought in 1905 led to an almost complete failure of the flowering season for the crop of 1906, when the total amount cured will not exceed one-third of an average crop, and will be as small as that for 1900, without the saving grace of high prices. Favourable weather in 1906 promises a good flowering season for the crop of 1907; the vines are in good heart, and it is probable that—as far as a forecast is possible—the crop should be up to 50,000 kilos. What the failure of the vanilla means to Seychelles may be illustrated by the fact that, for the term of ten years before

1904, the average crop represented an output of 38,476 kilos, valued at Rs.714,096, and selling at an average price of Rs.17·95 per kilo. In 1905, the export of vanilla was valued at Rs.282,876, with an average price of Rs.5·87 per kilo. And the failure means more than this, for planters had been living on a scale commensurate with their recent good fortune, and traders had been accorded credit on a similar scale. Credit ceased suddenly, and advances on crops and on mortgage were called in, and no banking institution existed to help those planters, who held valuable properties, but lacked, for the moment, means to keep them in cultivation or to supplement their resources by the introduction of new products. At this juncture, the Government, being supported on the authority of the Secretary of State by a credit with the Crown Agents, was enabled, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, to advance to approved planters, on the security of first mortgage, sums not to exceed Rs.100,000 in the aggregate. These loans have saved many planters from bankruptcy, and staved off the abandonment of cultivation on several valuable properties. The amount actually lent at the close of 1905 was Rs.67,800, when the further operation of the Ordinance had to be suspended. Although the vanilla crop for 1906 is again a failure, there has been a resolute effort on all sides to improve cocoanut cultivation and to develop new industries, especially rubber cultivation, desiccation of bananas, and the exploitation of phosphates: so the prospects for 1907 are more generally hopeful than for three years past.

A statement showing the value, quantity, and average price of Seychelles vanilla for the last eleven years is attached.

Value, Quantity, and Average Price of Seychelles Vanilla for the last Eleven Years.

Year.	Total Value of exports (including specie).	Quantity of vanilla exported.	Declared value of vanilla.	Average price per kilo. of vanilla.
	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs. cts.
1895	736,964	4,553	60,344	13 25
1896	1,569,912	31,227	936,000	29 97
1897	1,503,701	30,691	920,730	30 00
1898	1,381,514	25,177	748,810	29 74
1899	1,897,662	41,835	1,338,720	32 00
1900	1,036,161	17,569	580,877	33 06
1901	1,483,245	71,899	1,108,792	15 42
1902	1,237,405	60,862	642,331	10 55
1903	968,325	59,784	503,994	8 43
1904	801,894	41,072	300,026	7 30
1905	848,744	48,208	282,876	5 87

19. The following figures are of greater importance than those which concern vanilla. The cocoanut palm grows well under almost any conditions in the Seychelles Islands, and the products of the cocoanut palm constitute their permanent staple products. Vanilla has for a season brought greater wealth, and there is no reason why rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) should not be equally remunerative; but as a constant source of income, with an illimitable market, the cocoanut is the safest of all. Serious efforts have been made during 1905 to eradicate disease and to make clear to all proprietors the uses of restoratives of the soil and the best methods of cultivation. The estimated crop in 1905 was 19 to 20 millions nuts; but with better cultivation the crop of 2,000 nuts an acre might be increased by 50 per cent.; the average nuts can similarly be increased in weight and oil-giving quantities, and the area under cultivation might be largely extended.

The results, however, for 1905 are already eminently satisfactory, considering that the trees have suffered from two seasons of drought, showing that the planters appreciate the vital need of improving the cultivation of the cocoanut palm. The crops for 1906 promise to give much higher results. The subjoined table showing the export of products of the cocoanut palm merits close study. About four-fifths of the total crop is exported under one form or another. The quantity of oil exported is equivalent to about 20,000 cwts., at a price equivalent to £16 per ton. The cost of placing this oil on the London market is at present increased by 68*s.* per ton, the rate of freight fixed by the Messageries Maritimes; consequently, very little goes direct to Europe. The average price shows a substantial improvement over the prices in 1903 and 1904, although considerably less than the rate ruling from 1895 to 1899.

The manufacture of soap has shown a large expansion; the production is about 6,564 cwts., selling at £21 per ton. The quality of the soap is excellent, and needs only to be better known to be in wide demand. The present markets are Madagascar and the East Coast of Africa. At the Zanzibar Exhibition, 1905, the exhibits from Seychelles received the highest award in competition with important European trade rivals.

The export of cocoanuts is much lower than in any previous year, but this is due to the absence of facilities for cheap shipment to Mauritius. The declared value is given at Rs.22 per 1,000—a price which can be considerably augmented by their conversion into coprah or oil.

The preparation of coprah is a new industry, and at present prices is the most lucrative form for export; the principal difficulty in the way of its expansion is the cost and uncertainty of freight to Europe. The volume is still only 3,000 cwts., at an average price of between Rs.16 and Rs.17, or £22, per ton;

but with cheaper freights and some security against delay in shipment, the trade would largely increase.

There is at present no export of desiccated cocoanuts, poonac, or coir (rope, yarn, or fibre). A company has been formed at Brussels, under the title of "Bacova" for the desiccation of cocoanut, banana, vanilla, and manioc at Seychelles, which will shortly commence operations. The poonac is all consumed locally. The industry of fibre-manufacture was once attempted without success, and the experiment has not been revived. The fibre is not now utilised.

The total volume of cocoanut exports is approximately 2,275 tons, of a declared value of Rs.414,012—a marked advance on 1904, and better than any year since 1899. It is probable that the exports for 1906 will prove the best on record.

Exports of Products of the Cocoanut Palm.

Year.	Cocoanut oil.		Soap.		Cocoanuts.		Coprah.		Total value of cocoanut products exported.
	Hectolitrs	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs.
1894	13,939	338,784	12,398	3,480	1,525,532	30,510	—	—	372,744
1895	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	1,632,860	32,647	—	—	409,279
1896	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	1,293,136	26,237	—	—	486,134
1897	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	1,492,475	29,849	—	—	414,627
1898	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	1,695,236	34,094	—	—	327,447
1899	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	983,418	19,667	—	—	442,286
1900	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	1,083,302	27,524	—	—	331,911
1901	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	1,071,732	26,228	—	—	205,321
1902	11,326	242,343	173,476	45,990	1,117,960	24,815	5,390	827	313,148
1903	18,504	160,977	234,421	56,851	1,241,026	28,848	30,458	5,884	246,676
1904	9,919	180,045	217,432	56,439	882,044	26,021	267,200	43,744	294,249
1905	11,800	250,070	350,157	101,989	551,135	12,188	296,718	49,704	413,951

20. Of the remaining exports, those included in the following table are the most important; but the exploitation of guano and phosphate rock is the only commercial interest capable of being developed on a large scale. A phosphate guano, from which the nitrates have been dissolved by the rain, exists in deposits on many islands in the various archipelagos under this Government; the tonnage in the aggregate available for removal is not large, but it is probable that considerable areas of the coral foundation of the islands underlying the various deposits have become saturated with phosphoric acid and have

been transformed into a basic phosphate of lime of commercial value. The question has been the subject of special enquiry.

The exports of cacao, tortoise shell, and salt fish admit of considerable development. Liberian coffee yields magnificently, but the cost of collection, curing, and freight preclude a profit at present prices, and the crops are often left ungathered.

Year.	Cacao.		Coffee.		Guano.		Tortoise Shell.		Salt Fish.	
	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Tons.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.
1894 ..	1,650	1,650	—	—	—	—	1,736	52,080	—	—
1895 ..	12,043	9,921	201	241	390	9,650	1,802	74,705	—	—
1896 ..	6,794	4,905	158	158	1,103	22,660	1,701	65,760	—	—
1897 ..	5,714	4,566	627	597	1,105	22,100	1,522	59,341	—	—
1898 ..	8,452	6,762	639	639	491	22,287	1,281	40,992	368	111
1899 ..	7,891	5,049	4,481	2,688	1,940	19,400	973	30,859	19,031	2,286
1900 ..	7,287	6,365	2,565	1,464	3,277	42,159	1,440	35,933	7,139	4,243
1901 ..	5,163	3,051	548	221	5,598	54,463	835	17,069	7,224	2,380
1902 ..	5,966	3,254	1,710	736	7,500	90,234	700	15,426	25,115	5,758
1903 ..	3,824	1,789	820	305	2,944	29,467	920	13,666	14,817	3,820
1904 ..	6,122	3,370	2,620	1,186	5,210	52,130	2,011	33,325	30,465	6,091
1905 ..	3,180	1,634	140	35	3,680	36,830	1,334	31,607	21,813	5,156

The following also figure on the list of exports:—Calipee (Rs.7,269), cloves (Rs.4,078), preserved lemons (Rs.1,540), fruits, especially oranges and pine apples (Rs.1,412), bêche de mer (Rs.1,220), cocos de mer (Rs.1,061).

The vacoa bag industry is practically dead, killed by the competition of gunny bags from Calcutta. But attempts have been made to establish a market for preserved bananas and banana flour, lemon juice and citrate of lime, mangrove bark, and distilled essences of perfumes, such as lemon grass and citronella, ylang-ylang and patchouli, and orange essence. The efforts to push these natural resources are more fully described in the annexed report from the Curator of the Botanic Station.

Finally, were capital forthcoming, the conditions are all in favour of an extensive cultivation of Para rubber.

21. Subjoined is a table showing the immediate destination of exports (including specie) and the declared values at the Customs, for the last five years.

Comparative Table of Exports to Principal Countries, 1901 to 1905.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	537,135	396,953	350,565	169,873	197,602
France	563,902	294,094	192,900	228,978	202,478
Mauritius and Réunion.	205,266	267,646	239,249	166,004	184,029
India and Aden.	78,354	132,510	67,939	131,176	82,278
African Ports ...	24,990	51,694	68,054	40,701	58,072
Madagascar ...	29,225	43,596	30,733	29,861	98,334
Other Countries	44,373	51,412	18,885	35,302	25,951
Total ...	1,483,245	1,237,405	968,325	801,895	848,744

The foregoing table has to be accepted with the reservation that the destination to which goods are shipped from Seychelles is affected considerably by the difficulties in getting transport; for instance, communication with Mauritius is frequent and regular; therefore, goods are shipped to that market in great measure for re-export, because of the difficulty at present in reaching the market of Bombay. Were there a regular line of steamers calling at Mahé for the ports of Bombay, Colombo, or the East Coast of Africa, not only would the direct trade increase in proportion, but an inducement would offer, with the access to a larger market, to export a larger proportion of the produce of the islands, which at present remains wasted and unharvested.

Exports to United Kingdom.

22. The quantity of vanilla cleared for London in 1905 was 22,566 kilos, valued at Rs.137,185; the proportion of the crop and the total value being much as in 1904. London is looked upon as the better market when prices are good, but Paris sales are steadier when demand is dull; that conclusion is based on the fact that there are regular monthly sales in London, where parcels are sometimes put up for forced sale; whereas in Paris there is no open market, but the principal buyers, having standing contracts with the wholesale consumers, are ready to buy at a figure which is not subject to market fluctuations. As the price ruled uniformly low during 1905, the proportion sent to London was no more than 46 per cent. of the total; in prosperous years, the proportion sent to London has been as high as two-thirds. The supply of tortoise shell was short, viz., 763 kilos, which was declared for export at the high price of Rs.23 per kilo. The consignments of coprah rose from 10 tons in 1904 (the first year of shipment to England) to 48 tons in 1905.

Exports to France.

23. The export of vanilla to Paris included more than half the crop (24,757 kilos), valued at Rs.136,462. The only other item of importance was coprah—245 tons, valued at Rs.46,810. Merchants find in Marseilles a ready market for small consignments, which are not thought worth handling in London. It would be worth the while of large importers to buy up the annual supply in Seychelles and ship it by casual steamer direct to their works, at half the cost in freight and without incurring middlemen's charges. The declared value at the port of shipment on 245 tons is £12 13*s.* 4*d.* per ton. A moderate advance on these figures—sufficient to cause the preparation of coprah to be more advantageous than the preparation of oil—would secure a supply of 1,000 tons per annum.

Exports to British Possessions.

24. Cocoanut oil (5,167 hectolitres, valued at Rs.138,706)—nearly half the quantity made—is the chief export to Mauritius. Guano (780 tons) and cocoanuts to the value of Rs.8,934 are the other items of interest.

To India, 1,717 hectolitres of cocoanut oil, valued at Rs.46,094, is the principal item. India also absorbs numbers of cocos de mer (*Lodoicea Seychellarum*). To Aden is consigned cocoanut oil to the declared value of Rs.11,688. Hong Kong is the destination of trepang (*bêche de mer*) and cloves. Zanzibar and Mombasa buy soap—169,092 kilos (nearly half the quantity exported), valued at Rs.47,286.

25. The exports to Madagascar have largely increased, but the goods are practically limited to soap (180,715 kilos, valued at Rs.54,603) and cocoanut oil (1,329 hecolitres, valued at Rs.37,773). To Réunion, goods are exported to the value of Rs.13,825.

26. To other foreign countries, 1,400 tons of guano for Belgium is the only item of importance. Switzerland bought vanilla, valued at Rs.8,400. Germany figures for the sum of Rs.798 only.

27. The development of this Colony depends upon the satisfactory solution of several problems, among which one of the most important is the provision of regular means of shipment to the markets for its produce. There seems little difficulty in drawing supplies from Europe or, by means of transhipment at Aden or Mauritius, in obtaining rice or other necessaries from India or Indo-China. The difficulty rests in the lack of means of sending produce to the most suitable market. So long as vanilla was the mainstay of the Colony's wealth, the matter was not of paramount importance, as parcels of high value

could be accommodated on the mail steamers for Europe, or even sent by parcel post, and the charge per ton levied by the Messageries Maritimes (£16 to Marseilles, £20 to London) did not press unduly on the exporters. But now that the market for vanilla remains depressed for the third year in succession and that there are signs of permanent over-production as well as substitution, for most of its uses, of a cheap chemical imitation, it becomes necessary for the planters and merchants to turn their serious attention to other products.

Among other products, the derivatives of the cocoanut palm are unquestionably the most important, viz., cocoanut oil, coprah, poonac, desiccated nut, and coir rope, yarn, or fibre. These industries, if provided with suitable machinery, are capable of wide development, especially as the markets are large and expanding, and are not likely to be glutted nor the raw material replaced by the introduction of cheaper substitutes. The present prices are remunerative, and the machinery for the preparation of coprah can be extended to other island products, such as manioc, bread-fruit, and bananas.

But in order to place these bulky products on the market, it is essential that there should be regular and fairly cheap means of shipment. At present, the French mail steamers will not carry cocoanut products for transhipment to the East, on the ground that they are offensive in odour, and cases frequently occur when cargo is shut out, owing to the small cargo capacity of the mail steamers being already taken up by goods from Mauritius, Réunion, or Madagascar.

(B.) Manufactures.

28. Considerable progress has been made in manufactures. There are four soap factories, supplying all local needs and exporting, in 1905, 350,157 kilos (¾ of a million lbs.), valued at Rs.101,989.

The soap, which is of good quality, is sent to Madagascar and East Africa, and a trial shipment has gone to France. A local manufacturer won the gold medal at the Zanzibar Exhibition, 1905, against several European competitors. The continuance of the trade depends largely on the relative demand for cocoanut products, for estate owners will turn their attention to the preparation of oil or coprah in preference to soap, if the market prices become more favourable to either of these preparations.

Cocoanut oil is prepared on every estate; the mills are primitive and wasteful, but produce a good article. The preparation of coprah is also attracting attention, and a company, styled "Bacova," with a capital of 400,000 francs, has been formed in Brussels, the first object of which is the development and

improvement in the manufacture of coprah in Seychelles. The desiccation of bananas and the preparation of banana flour are also undertaken by the new company, in a factory equipped with modern machinery; the produce is favourably reported on, and trial shipments have obtained remunerative prices. This industry promises to develop in the future.

Vanilla, coffee, cacao, and cloves are cured and prepared for the market on a number of estates. Machinery for the distillation of essences, especially of citronella and lemon grass, vanilla and cinnamon, and of perfumes, such as patchouli and ylang-ylang, has been imported, and subsidiary industries may eventually be established in this connection.

29. Engineering works have been established on a portion of land reclaimed from the sea, adjoining the long pier, held on lease from the Crown, and repairs to sailing ships and engine-room fittings are now undertaken by Messrs. Baty, Bergne & Co. An ice factory has also been set up in the same connection.

30. The coaling business of the port has been greatly improved in efficiency; recent improvements have led to the handling of an average of 400 tons of Welsh coal per diem, and a maximum quantity of 525 tons was recently placed on board a Dutch man-of-war. The average supply in stock is 2,000 tons. The price of Welsh coal has recently been reduced; and a project is under consideration for the establishment of a depôt of Indian coal at cheap prices, to attract ships on the Australian trade, which might find Mahé a cheap, direct, and convenient port at which to coal on the run between Australia and the Suez Canal.

(C.) Fisheries.

31. All the natives of Seychelles are born sailors, and have been known as skilled and daring seamen from the time of the Napoleonic war, when the corsairs of Mahé preyed on the East India Company's shipping, and extended their cruises along the Indian coasts and up to Persian Gulf. Most families on the shore own their own pirogue—as the small fishing boats are called,—and inter-island communication is carried on by means of half-decked sailing boats or whale boats. Fish and turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) take the place of meat, and large quantities are consumed fresh; schooners, of which there are eight locally owned, ranging from 40 to 340 tons, bring salt fish and live turtles from the southern archipelagos. Calipee from the edible green turtle was exported to Europe to the value of Rs.7,269, and salt fish, in addition to the large local consumption, is exported in varying quantities; in 1905, the

quantity sent to Mauritius and Réunion was valued at Rs.5,155. The Seychelles and Amirantes banks are eminently suited for fisheries, and the trade in salt and dried fish might—with more enterprise—be considerably extended. The bêche de mer fisheries are conducted on a small scale; the dried article is exported to China, to the declared value, in 1905, to Rs.1,220.

Sperm whales are reported to be numerous in deep water, north of the Seychelles bank, in the neighbourhood of Denis Island. The successful cruise in 1904 of a New England whaler has not been repeated; the venture on that occasion was combined with fishing for the right whale off the Crozets, and was reported to have been very profitable.

In combination with the fisheries on the Aldabra, Cosmoledo, Providence, and Amirantes Groups, where there are established properous cocoanut plantations, there are numerous fishing stations, in connection with which mangrove bark can be collected, and phosphate deposits worked.

The fisheries for tortoise shell obtained from the hawksbill turtle (*Chelonia imbricata*) were, in 1905, fairly successful; the prices are high, and the value of exports to Europe was declared at Rs.31,607—considerably less, however, than the highest figures obtained in 1895 (Rs.74,705).

The giant land tortoise of the Aldabra Islands (*Testudo elephantina*) is carefully preserved, both at Aldabra and elsewhere. The herd at Government House is in good condition, and over one hundred young ones were hatched out in the season of 1905.

(D.) Agriculture and Crown Lands.

32. An admirable report by Mr. R. Dupont, the Curator of the Botanic Station, recording the marked progress in agriculture which has distinguished the past year, is annexed. Seeds or young plants have been imported of the following varieties, either to improve existing stock or to introduce new products, viz.:—Cocoanuts, Para and Ceara rubber—as well as several Landolphia and Funtumia varieties,—nutmegs, cola, cacao, cardamoms, lemon grass, citronella, ylang-ylang, and citrus plants. The laboratory work discloses a list of ninety analyses, including 68 of guano, yielding 23 to 30 per cent. of phosphoric acid. Twenty-seven estates or islands have been examined at the request of the owners and expert advice offered. A series of popular lectures—most of them several times repeated before various audiences—have been given on cocoanut diseases (with field demonstrations), cardamom cultivation, Para rubber, and plants yielding perfume. And, in addition, Mr. Stanley Gardiner was so good as to deliver a

lecture on the results of his investigations of the islands when conducting the scientific mission under the provisions of the Percy Sladen Trust, dwelling on the resources capable of development from the fisheries, the cultivation of oysters and of sponges, with suggestions for the improvement of the cocoanut, vanilla, rubber, maize, and tobacco cultivation.

33. Mr. Dupont estimates that the area under cocoanut cultivation is the equivalent of 9,000 acres, yielding 19 million nuts per annum, and considers that the area might be doubled and the yield increased by 50 per cent. Elaborate experiments which are likely to prove of general value are being undertaken in the scientific treatment of the vanilla vine on the Crown land at Capucin. Some 100,000 seeds or seedlings of Para rubber have been imported, and Mr. Dupont has recorded some noteworthy results in the growth of the young trees planted in December, 1903. It being established that *Hevea brasiliensis* grows and thrives in the soil and climate of Mahé, it is merely a question of capital when the advantages should be fully developed.

An experiment of some importance has been undertaken in the preparation of desiccated banana flour from the bananes Malgaches—Musa Sapientum Var. Paradisiaca—and St. Jacques. These varieties which yield the best flour of an orange hue are peculiar to Seychelles, change of climate and soil having caused incidental variation in the original forms. The machinery and installation are of modern design; the drying process is perfect, the fruits being dried in 18 hours at a temperature of 65° to 70° C. (150° to 160° F.). Satisfactory quotations having been secured through the instrumentality of the Imperial Institute, a trial sample of 10 tons has been placed in execution. The plantations of the pioneer proprietors are equal to the supply of 100 tons by 1908, and the industry is capable of considerable development.

34. The Crown interest in a sand bank, known as Cerf Island, at the south of African Banks, in the Providence Group, has been sold for Rs.1,000 to the owners of the adjacent islands. The question of title was in dispute, and the sale was of the nature of a compromise settling a dispute as to ownership. The bank is not of agricultural value, but is of use as a fishing station. No grant of Crown land was made in 1905; the extent of land unalienated by the Crown may amount to 40,000 acres, including the Aldabra Group with Astove and Assumption, the Cosmoledo Group, the Amirantes Group and St. Pierre, near the Providence Islands, Curieuse and Félicité Islands, together with some agricultural land in Mahé and Praslin. These properties are leased with a special covenant, requiring the plantation of the cultivable area under cocoanuts. The exploitation of guano has been also granted under lease on the Amirantes and St. Pierre.

(E.) Shipping.

Comparative Tables of Shipping, 1904 *and* 1905.

35. The following tables show the number, tonnage, and nationality of sailing vessels and steamships entered and cleared during the last two years:—

The sailing vessels are limited—with the exception of one whaler in 1904—to small craft, engaged in the coasting trade, and to barques, ranging up to 1,200 tons, chartered for the transport of guano from the islands. Should the trade in guano phosphates develop, it is probable that steam vessels may replace sailing ships.

(1.) *Sailing Vessels Entered.*

Year.	British.		American.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian. and Swedish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1904 ..	12	2,659	1	366	—	—	—	—	1	851	1	834	15	4,710
1905 ..	10	1,489	—	—	1	45	1	1,085	—	—	3	2,619	15	5 238

(2.) *Sailing Vessels Cleared.*

Year.	British.		American.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian and Swedish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1904 ..	10	2,553	1	366	—	—	1	863	1	851	1	834	14	5,267
1905 ..	9	1,204	—	—	1	45	—	—	—	—	3	2,622	13	3,868

(3.) *Steamers Entered.*

Year.	British.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Portuguese.		Swedish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1904 ..	28	61,865	—	—	20	42,643	1	1,850	1	1,800	–		50	108,158
1905 ..	25	47,006	3	8,490	26	59,721	4	8,115	—	—	1	2,088	59	125,420

(4.) *Steamers Cleared.*

Year.	British.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Portuguese.		Swedish.		Total Vessels.	Total Tonnage.
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.		
1904 ..	29	61,870	—	—	20	42,613	1	1,850	1	1,800	—	—	51	107,963
1905 ..	25	47,006	3	8,490	26	59,721	4	8,115	—	—	1	2,083	59	125,420

36. The following tables recapitulate the number of men-of-war of all nations which have visited Seychelles during the last five years, and the nationality and tonnage of the total shipping, inwards and outwards, during the same period.

There is a marked falling-off in the number of visits paid by British ships-of-war, due to the reduction of the strength of the squadron on the Cape Station. The facilities of the port have, however, attracted more foreign ships-of-war. The coaling arrangements have been greatly improved, as much as 525 tons having been placed on board of a cruiser in one day. This improvement is worthy of note, as various sailing directories, which are not up-to-date, give the rate of coaling at 100 tons a day only. The price of the best Welsh coal has recently been reduced, and it is hoped that Indian coal may shortly be available at not more than 26*s.* 8*d.* (Rs.20) per ton. The harbour dues are very moderate, and the lighterage arrangements are prompt and reasonable in cost.

Of merchant shipping, nearly half is under French colours, represented by the mail steamers of the Messageries Maritimes, which make two calls monthly.

(5.) *Comparative Statement of Men-of-War entered at Seychelles for the five years* 1901–1905.

Year	British.			American.			Austrian.			Dutch.			French.			German.			Italian.			Portuguese.			Total Tonnage.
	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	No. of Vessels.	Tonnage.	No. of Guns.	
1901	4	13,124	12	3	5,283	48	2	3,880	27	1	7,900	8	1	3,149	28	7	50,511	92	—	—	—	1	638	5	76,585
1902	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4,117	32	—	—	—	1	3,400	14	—	—	—	7,517
1903	10	35,795	85	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9,867	36	3	1,770	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	47,432
1904	9	26,869	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2,511	18	1	1,850	8	—	—	—	1	1,800	10	33,030
1905	5	9,947	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	8,490	84	2	2,402	20	4	8,115	68	—	—	—	—	—	—	28,954

(6.) *Comparative Statement of Total Shipping Inwards and Outwards* 1901–1905.

Year.	—	British.		American.		Austrian.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese.		Spanish.		Swedish.		Total Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
1901	Inwards	55	78,834	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	—	—	338,464
	Outwards	55	78,415	3	5,283	2	3,880	2	2,850	14	22,842	7	50,511	—	—	4	2,683	1	638	1	1,860	—	—	
1902	Inwards	37	41,249	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	51,592	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	—	—	237,377
	Outwards	36	39,831	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	51,557	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1903	Inwards	38	58,843	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	14	19,450	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	—	—	274,645
	Outwards	39	59,694	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	13	18,787	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1904	Inwards	40	64,524	1	336	—	—	—	—	20	42,643	1	1,856	1	851	1	834	1	1,800	—	—	—	—	226,098
	Outwards	37	64,223	1	336	—	—	—	—	20	42,643	2	2,513	1	851	1	834	1	1,800	—	—	—	—	
1905	Inwards	35	48,495	—	—	—	—	3	8,490	27	59,766	5	9,200	—	—	2	1,984	—	—	—	—	1	635	259,946
	Outwards	34	48,210	—	—	—	—	3	8,490	27	59,766	4	8,115	—	—	2	1,984	—	—	—	—	1	635	

Means of Communication among the Islands.

37. The Port Office is an important department in a Colony which consists of 89 islands and groups of islands, several of which are situated over 600 miles from Mahé. The main interest centres in the Seychelles Archipelago, consisting of 45 mountain tops and coral atolls, rising from the Seychelles bank, an area measuring 150 miles from north to south, and about the same from east to west. In this area the soundings do not exceed 50 fathoms, with an average depth of 1,700 fathoms outside the line of the banks. The islands in this group are served, for administrative purposes, by means of a Government steam launch, the "Alexandra," of 30 tons, built at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, and received in December, 1902. The "Alexandra" made, in 1905, 36 voyages, including a regular fortnightly service to Praslin and La Digue, the islands which, in population and importance, rank next to Mahé. She conveyed 589 passengers and a considerable quantity of cargo. During the height of the south-east trades—June to August—when the sea runs high among the islands, it is thought prudent to limit the regular service to one trip a month, passengers preferring to travel by sailing craft during these months. Her earnings amounted to Rs.1,580, or about half the cost of her maintenance. Between the months from November to March there are often long periods of calms, during which her steam power renders the launch of great public convenience; but when there is sufficient wind numerous whale boats and cutters ply between the islands. The Governor made use of the launch on five trips of inspection during the year. The service of the steam launch is supplemented by the use of a Government cutter, the "Wave," of 7½ tons, which sailed 2,310 miles during the year, and carried 100 passengers and 26 tons of cargo. The cutter is used on a monthly service to the lighthouse on Denis Island, an atoll on the northern edge of the banks, 55 miles from Victoria. The lighthouse service, efficiently maintained, is under the control of the Port Officer. There is, in addition, a fleet of smaller boats employed by the Government in local service for the medical officers, the police, the preventive service, and on quarantine duty.

The Amirantes Archipelago, situated on a bank to the west and south-west of Mahé, the nearest point being 120 miles off, extends north and south some 260 miles, with a maximum breadth of 50 miles. This archipelago consists of 27 islands or atolls, divided into five groups, known as the African banks, St. Joseph Group, Poivre Island, Alphonse Group, and Providence Group, the last-named being within 170 miles of Cape Amber, the most northern point of Madagascar.

This archipelago, as well as the Cosmoledo Islands (twelve in number, situated 210 miles west of Providence) and the

Aldabra Group (of five more islands, 60 miles still further to the west) is served by sailing craft owned in Seychelles. There are vessels ranging from 15 to 250 tons, which trade between the Seychelles Islands, or visit Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion, and Bombay. During 1905 all the groups and islands, except Bird Island, lying to the extreme north and not at present inhabited, were officially inspected by the Visiting Magistrate, under the provisions of the Outlying Islands Ordinance; the important groups were frequently visited. In addition, the Governor visited several islands, and special investigations were carried out by the Curator of the Botanic Station, by the Inspector of Police, and by H.M.S. "Sealark" with the members of the Percy Sladen Scientific Expedition.

Most of the outlying islands are highly fertile and grow cocoanuts and maize luxuriantly; and on several there are valuable deposits of guano and phosphate of lime.

III.—LEGISLATION.

38. The task of codification of the principal laws—extending over a period of four years—was brought to a close by the passing of the Seychelles Penal Code (Ordinance No. 10 of 1904), and there has accordingly been a lull in the enactment of laws. In 1905, only seven Ordinances were passed in the local legislature, against an average of 27 in the six preceding years. There was no law enacted of great importance.

No. 1.—Transfers the import duty on sugar from the *ad valorem* schedule to the specific list, in order to minimise the variation in cost to the consumer, arising from recent violent fluctuations in the market; the rate is fixed at Rs.2 per 100 kilos (equal to sixteen pence per cwt.).

No. 2.—Talc for the manufacture of soap is admitted duty free.

No. 3.—Sets forth the terms and conditions of contract under which labourers may be engaged in Seychelles for the lesser dependencies of Mauritius. Contracts are limited to three years, free passages are provided for labourers and their families, and the scale of rations is fixed. The lesser dependencies of Mauritius are set forth in the schedule, but the islands principally concerned are Coetivy, Agalega, and Farquhar, which are comparatively close to Seychelles and distant from Mauritius. To work these prosperous "oil islands" it has been found that Seychellois are the most suitable labourers.

No. 4.—Empowers the Courts to order whipping as a punishment for boys under the age of sixteen years. Whipping is inflicted with a cane and is limited to ten strokes.

No. 5.—Introduces an amendment into the machinery for the recovery of local rate. Under the provisions of the principal Ordinance, men, not the owners of immoveable property or possessing an income of over Rs.240, are liable to a capitation tax fixed at Rs.3; the procedure under the principal Ordinance was lengthy and cumbersome, and resulted in the accumulation of heavy surcharges and costs. Under the stress of the calamitous droughts in 1904 and 1905, many landless labourers elected to undergo simple imprisonment in lieu of making payment. The new Ordinance does away with surcharges and costs, shortens the term of imprisonment for those who elect to go to prison, but substitutes hard labour for twelve days in lieu of a longer term of simple imprisonment. In prison, local rate defaulters are kept separate from those under sentences for criminal offences. When the supply of labour, as at present, exceeds the demand, labourers prefer to discharge their liability by labour in lieu of money payment.

No. 6.—Provides for the establishment of public sales of Colonial produce. Under this Ordinance monthly sales by auction of most varieties of local produce are managed by a committee nominated by the Governor. This institution has had the effect of bringing sellers and buyers together to their mutual advantage, and has so far been popular and well conducted. It has supplied a local want.

No. 2 and No. 7 are appropriation Ordinances.

The recent codification of the laws led to the publication, in 1904, of the first volume of the Revised Laws of Seychelles, containing all the Mauritius laws in force in Seychelles, dating back to 1766; this volume was carefully edited and annoted by the late Chief Justice, Mr. Herchenroder.

Volume II., containing the local Regulations and Ordinances from 1872 to 1898, was published in 1905 under the same careful editorship. Volume III., to include the important laws of more recent date, will be undertaken as soon as possible.

IV.—EDUCATION.

39. The total number of children receiving education in 1905 was 2,636, an advance of 87 over the previous year, and representing 13 per cent. of the population.

Higher education is represented by the Victoria School—a Government institution on an undenominational basis (95 boys); St. Louis College, for boys, conducted by the Marist Brothers (110); and St. Joseph's Convent, for girls, under the control of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny (116). A Seychelles centre has been established for the Cambridge Local Examinations, on the result of which two scholarships are awarded of Rs.600 for four years. An amended Scholarships Ordinance enables the Board of Education to send the holder of a scholarship to a technical college, or to cause him to be apprenticed to any approved occupation, or to allow him to continue his studies at the Victoria School, Seychelles, at the Royal College, Mauritius, or at any approved school or college elsewhere in British Possessions. By a new regulation framed with the view of encouraging the local schools, four exhibitions may be awarded annually at the Victoria School to pupils, under the age of thirteen years, of any primary school in Seychelles. There are fourteen primary schools under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church, and four schools belonging to the Church of England. The former have 979 boys and 1,132 girls on their attendance roll; the latter, 82 boys and 122 girls; the average general attendance being 72 per cent.

The Government grant-in-aid to the denominational schools was fixed at Rs.12,000.

40. The direction of the educational policy of the Colony is under the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and his Executive Council, advised by an Education Committee, composed of the Chief Justice as Chairman, four members nominated by the Governor (of whom two are officials and two unofficials), two persons nominated by the Roman Catholic Bishop, and one by the Civil Chaplain (of the Church of England), with the Inspector of Schools as Secretary.

The standard of knowledge acquired by the pupils is not high when measured by what is now expected in most countries. The peasant children and the children of African origin are not naturally bright, and labour under the disadvantage of knowing only a creole patois, which is too restricted and rude to be a medium of learning. As far as possible, English is now the sole medium through which teaching is imparted, but its acquisition is that of a foreign language. The same difficulty would apply in almost as marked a degree to the use of French as a medium. But little assistance is received from home surroundings, as the patois is, in the majority of the houses, the sole language used. There is, however, a growing desire on the part of parents to obtain for their children the advantage of a fair knowledge of English; the Convent School has been specially successful in its English classes. A popular and useful institution is an exhibition of school work of all kinds, held annually in December.

School Statistics, 1901 to 1905.

41. In the following table are given statistics respecting the Grant-in-Aid Schools and the Victoria School for the last five years:—

——	Roman Catholic.*					Church of England.					Victoria School and Infant School.†				
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
No. of schools	23	22	22	22	22	6	4	3	3	4	2	2	2	2	2
No. of pupils on roll.	2,377	2,435	2,415	2,371	2,174	343	267	170	173	204	106	123	134	108	95
No. of pupils in average attendance.	1,690	1,458	1,532	1,704	1,683	227	183	148	134	150	82	101	80	91	83
‡Grant earned	Rs. 9,573	Rs. 9,128	Rs. 10,469	Rs. 10,704·61§	Rs. 10,685·48	Rs. 1,702	Rs. 1,211	Rs. 1,385	Rs. ‖1,295·39	Rs. 1,314·52	†Note.—The cost of these schools is provided for in the annual estimates. The staff consists of a head master, four assistant masters, two pupil teachers, and a schoolmistress for the infant school.				

* These schools include the St. Louis College and Convent paying schools.
‡ The annual provision for grants to schools was increased in 1901 from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 12,000.
§ Includes a balance of Rs. 429·54 due for the year 1903, paid in 1904.
‖ Includes a balance of Rs. 8·21 due for the year 1903, paid in 1904.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals.

42. The Victoria Hospital is the only general hospital in Seychelles. The excellent system of roads carried out by my predecessor renders it unnecessary to establish a similar institution in South Mahé. A cottage hospital in Praslin, to serve the group of islands administered from that centre, would be a public benefit, and the project will be kept in view until such time as the resources of the Colony are in such an improved condition as to warrant the expenditure.

The Victoria Hospital is supplemented by the establishment of six outdoor dispensaries, namely, one at Victoria, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer; two at Anse Royale and Anse Boileau respectively, serving the needs of South Mahé, under the direction of the Assistant Medical Officer for that division; and three under the Assistant Medical Officer for the Praslin District, namely, two on the Island of Praslin, at Baie St. Anne, and Grand' Anse, and one on the adjacent island of La Digue.

43. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital for the last five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1901 ...	147	53	21	17	9	247
1902 ...	176	43	23	14	10	266
1903 ...	172	52	8	28	9	269
1904 ...	210	38	13	20	18	299
1905 ...	241	45	20	14	14	334

The hospital is central and well situated. The wards are airy and well constructed, and the water supply is pure and unlimited. There is a commodious dispensary adjacent, and quarters are provided for the Chief Medical Officer and his assistant, and for the three nursing sisters who belong to the Roman Catholic Society of St. Joseph de Cluny.

The hospital death-rate has fallen to the extraordinarily low rate of 4·2 per cent. The principal causes of the increasing number of patients are the poverty of the peasantry and the decay from old age of the Africans who were landed, to the number of 5,000, as liberated slaves at the period when the over-sea slave trade was rife. Such of these liberated slaves as have formed no ties in the Colony and have exhausted their savings, are brought to the Government institutions for relief

when incapacitated from earning their living. The hospital and dispensary are specially popular with all patients, owing to the kindly care bestowed on them by the nursing sisters; the superior, Sister St. Landri, an Irish sister, has worked in the hospital without change for 38 years.

Dispensaries.

44. The number of persons who attended for treatment at the outdoor dispensaries has risen to 4,304, as compared with 3,301 in 1904, 2,709 in 1903, and 2,340 in 1902. The vast increase has been due to the poverty caused by the droughts in 1904 and 1905, and the want of the little ready money which every peasant used to possess from the cultivation of a few vanilla vines. More general employment may be looked for in coming years, but there is no prospect of a cottage industry, especially helpful to the owners of small plots of land, to take the place of vanilla. As usual, the number of females attending the dispensaries (2,947) greatly exceeds the number of men (1,357). The fullest confidence is felt in the ministrations of the six doctors with British qualifications.

Principal Diseases.

45. The drought in 1904 was succeeded in 1905 by an equally prolonged period of drought, which, although prejudicial to the prosperity of the country, was generally favourable to health. The general death-rate fell to 14·98 per thousand—a remarkably low death-rate for a tropical country; the figures are considerably below the average of 17·21 for the previous seven years. Dysentery and diarrhœa were less prevalent; two or three suspected cases of beri-beri were under observation. The Medical Officers note an increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis of the lungs, attributed to an influx of Indian creoles from Mauritius. The climate of Seychelles is not favourable for cases of phthisis. The only epidemic disease was whooping cough, which commenced in November and continued until March, 1906. The type of the disease was severe, and the deaths among children, especially under one year, became numerous in the first quarter of 1906, when 43 fatal cases were recorded. The complications of the disease did not fall on the respiratory, but on the digestive, organs, resulting in a form of enteritis in a precisely similar way as in a recent epidemic of measles. The annual medical reports are published in a separate form.

Leper Asylum.

46. The number of lepers in the home rose from nine to eleven. The Medical Officer in charge is of opinion that leprosy is not on the increase, but his experience goes to show that

there are families in which there is susceptibility towards this malady. Segregation is not compulsory; it is a matter for grave reflection whether it would not be wise to attempt to limit the number of afflicted persons who are permitted to remain under the care of their relations. The Home on Round Island, in the Baie St. Anne, within ready access from the house of the Assistant Medical Officer of Praslin, is well adapted for the treatment of cases, and the general tone among the patients is more cheerful than is usually the case elsewhere.

Pauper Camp.

47. The number of paupers maintained by the Government at the close of the year had risen from ten to fifteen. These patients represent the old and destitute, principally liberated slaves. The camp is roomy, healthily placed, and well kept.

Lunatic Asylum.

48. The insane were still sent during 1905 from Seychelles for care and treatment at the Government Asylum of Mauritius, where the number of Seychelles patients has gradually fallen to a total of twelve. The disadvantages of long transfer by sea in sailing vessels—for the regular mail steamers refuse insane patients—are obvious, and the distance causes difficulties attending discharge of patients on probation. Moreover, the charge for maintenance is high, the cost of transport is usually excessive, and months have at times passed before an opportunity has occurred for the transfer of a patient to Mauritius. It has now been resolved to establish an asylum at Anse Royale under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé, who has made a special study of mental diseases. An Ordinance has been passed (No. 3 of 1906) for the care and treatment of lunatics; plans have been approved for the erection of permanent buildings; a suitable site has been acquired, and provision is made in the Estimates for 1906, for the erection of the boundary wall and for the adaptation of existing buildings for the temporary care of a few insane persons.

Vaccination.

49. The supply of vaccine received from London by the monthly mails is of good quality and gives excellent results, 79 per cent. of the cases of vaccination being successful at the first attempt. Vaccination of infants is obligatory, but no pressure on the parents is required as the devastation caused by an outbreak of small-pox in 1883 is still fresh in the memory of the inhabitants. During 1905, small-pox was rife at all the ports with which this Colony is in closest communication, and, consequently, on the application of the Board of Health for

the Central District, re-vaccination was declared under Proclamation No. 3 of 1905 compulsory within the town of Victoria. A supply of vaccine was obtained from the Pasteur Institute in Madagascar through the good offices of the Governor-General, and 87 per cent. of the adults were re-vaccinated gratuitously, at a cost to the Government of Rs.700. The percentage, however, of successful operations was not satisfactory, owing to the rapid deterioration of the lymph in a damp and hot climate. It is feared, too, that the serum regularly imported as a prophylactic against plague is exposed to similar rapid deterioration. The vigilance of the Quarantine Committee has, however, protected Seychelles from the introduction of any fell disease for a long term of years.

Savings Bank.

50. The Government Savings Bank consists of the central office in Victoria, opened in 1894, with branches at Baie St. Anne, in Praslin, at La Digue, and at Anse Royale, in South Mahé. There was a substantial increase in the total deposits, the average account per head being Rs.221.

The following table gives the savings bank statistics for the last six years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs.
1900 ...	221	35	28	61,492.04
1901 ...	243	52	30	58,761.19
1902 ...	279	44	8	52,663.92
1903 ...	291	35	23	58,067.07
1904 ...	302	34	23	58,462.63
1905 ...	307	39	34	67,852.00

The reserve funds, invested in Colonial stock, represent, at the quotations of the 31st December, 1905, the sum of Rs.64,003.

51. Attention is drawn in the Blue Book reports for 1899, 1900, and 1901 to the need of a bank in Seychelles. The normal rate of interest on mortgage is 12 per cent., augmented in most cases by onerous conditions, such as a charge of 5 per cent. as commission for negotiating the loan, and the condition that the whole produce of the property shall be sold to the creditor at a fixed rate, generally below the market price. The losses of 1904 and 1905, through the fall of prices for

vanilla, have placed many well-to-do planters in temporary difficulties. In order to assist those whose position was not too seriously jeopardised, the Government is authorised, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, to lend to planters on first mortgage at the rate of 6 per cent. a sum not to exceed a total of Rs. 100,000.

At the present juncture, when many estates have perforce changed hands and capital expenditure is urgently required for the introduction of new products, fresh capital could be advantageously invested, and banking facilities would be especially opportune. There are markedly favourable openings for the investment of capital for the cultivation of Para rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*), which grows well; for plantations of cocoanuts, which might be much improved by judicious cultivation; and in the exploitation of the deposits of guano phosphates.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Police Force.

52. The authorised strength of the police force remained throughout the year at 63, of all ranks, the number to which it was reduced in September, 1904, from a total of 79. In addition, one corporal and eight constables were in charge of the political prisoners Prempeh, ex-King of Ashanti, and Kabarega, ex-King of Unyoro. Their services were paid for by the Governments of the Gold Coast and the Uganda Protectorate respectively. The cost has been reduced from Rs.40,557 in 1903 and Rs.37,501 in 1904, to Rs.33,395 in 1905. The police prosecuted in 1,023 cases, involving 1,295 persons, of whom 1,163 were convicted. The following table shows the comparative results for five years:—

Year.	No. of cases.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.	Declared value of property lost.	Value of property recovered.	Fines inflicted.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901 ...	828	1,024	904	5,984	242	8,166
1902 ...	943	1,157	1,014	828	802	11,146
1903 ...	869	1,079	987	2,906	2,091	9,303
1904 ...	797	961	836	4,385	503	8,025
1905 ...	1,023	1,295	1,163	1,191	969	9,858

Four cases of burglary were reported to the police, and convictions followed in all cases. The number of thefts of praedial

produce increased during the year; efforts have been made to co-operate with the landowners to check petty larcenies of this nature, and, considering the difficult conditions, with some measure of success. The bulk of the population is law-abiding; serious offences against the person are rare; the increase in the number of offences against property is due mainly to poverty and lack of employment.

Law Courts.

53. The following table shows the volume of the judicial work transacted in the five years 1901 to 1905:—

Judicial Statistics, 1901 *to* 1905.

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1901 ...	912	899	1,147	959	187	72	62
1902 ...	1,098	1,083	1,346	1,097	235	100	73
1903 ...	1,108	1,099	1,293	1,071	271	94	64
1904 ...	1,083	1,077	1,278	808	232	24	80
1905 ...	1,032	1,024	1,487	1,262	181*	16	80

* In addition to 514 cases referred to Court for non-payment of Local Rate.

54. The number of cases of crime and misdemeanour dealt with in the Supreme Court of Seychelles was 353; 428 persons were charged, 369 convicted, 54 acquitted, and five were discharged without sentence. The more serious charges included an attempt to murder (conviction for grievous hurt), rape (accused acquitted), 14 cases of house-breaking, and three cases for assault on the police. The number of cases shows an increase of 117, or nearly one-third, about half of which are accounted for by thefts of praedial produce.

The number of cases dealt with in the police Court for contraventions against statute law was 515, in which 659 persons were charged and 567 convicted. The Justice of the Peace for South Mahé had before him 186 accused persons, of whom 159 were convicted; the Justice of the Peace for Praslin and La Digue tried 189 persons, and convicted 159. The Visiting Magistrate for the outlying islands dealt with nine cases, of which eight resulted in convictions; none of these last cases were of a serious character, being minor offences under the labour laws or for causing disturbance or for petty thefts of produce. The population as a whole is singularly law-abiding,

and there is a marked absence of the litigious element which bulks so largely in the statistics of India and the dependencies of the further East. The offences against property were more numerous and serious in 1904 and 1905 than in preceding years, due mainly to the widespread poverty succeeding a cycle of prosperous years, which had raised the standard of living. There is a diminution in drunkenness, due probably almost solely to want of means; but whatever its cause, the improvement is most marked, and may become permanent even when the former prosperity is renewed. The illicit preparation of "bacca," the fermented juice of the sugar cane, is still prevalent, and the custom of having a "festin" in order to clear an extent of land for cultivation, to which all the labourers in the neighbourhood are invited and rewarded by a free distribution of fermented "bacca," leads to drunkenness and disorder.

Prison.

55. The number of persons committed to prison during 1905 amounted to 660 men and 75 women, showing an increase of 260 over the figures for 1904; but out of this total 489 were under remand for safe custody or were sentenced to simple imprisonment in default of payment of fines imposed by the Courts. The number actually sentenced to undergo penal imprisonment was 246, viz., 207 men and 39 women, or 76 more than in 1904. The daily average of prisoners was 75, of whom five were women. Thirty-three persons, all males, were admitted to prison infirmary, but there were no deaths, and the general health was extraordinarily good. One prisoner effected his escape, but was re-captured. There were no cases of corporal punishment.

The increase in the number of prisoners is due, not to an increase of crime—except in the matter of petty larcenies—but to widespread poverty and unwillingness to pay the small fines imposed by the Courts. The tendency to elect to go to prison rather than to pay fines has been partly due to the prison diet having been fixed at a higher scale than most prisoners are accustomed to when at liberty. The scales of diet have accordingly been revised, with good results.

The services of prisoners have been organised for the execution of public works in the vicinity of Victoria; and several important and useful works have been carried out by convict labour at the minimum of cost.

The improvements to, and enlargement of, the Victoria prison, commenced in 1903, were completed in 1905 on a cheaper plan, modified in consequence of the falling revenue.

The prison is now on a level with modern requirements.

The cost of the Prison Department in 1905 was Rs.15,018.

The subjoined table shows the statistics for the past five years:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in the prison.
1901...	276	40
1902...	384	40
1903...	450	45
1904...	467	50
1905...	660	75

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

56. The estimated population on the 31st December, 1905, is placed at 20,767, the increase in 1905 amounting to 349. There is an excess of males, 10,638 as against 10,129 females. The density of the population is 133 to the square mile, and is considerably in excess of the present capacity of the Colony to feed it. The staple food is rice, which is imported from Burmah and Indo-China. In the earlier years of settlement rice was grown in the marshes, but the cultivation has long been abandoned. Manioc or cassava and sweet potatoes are grown among the hills; these, with breadfruit, at present form a considerable part of the food of the peasants in the mountain valleys, who cannot always afford rice. Turtle meat is plentiful, the supply being brought by local sailing craft from the southerly islands. The number of marriages was 108, considerably lower than in recent years.

Birth Rate.

57. The number of births was 680 (33·31 per mille), somewhat below the average, which is 34·4 per mille. The number of still births recorded is 54, about the normal proportion in Seychelles. The remarkable number of twin births (6 per cent. of the whole in 1904) is not sustained, the number of twin births in 1905 being seven. Thirty per cent. of the births were illegitimate.

Death Rate.

58. The number of deaths was 306 (14·98 per mille). The year was very healthy until the appearance in December of an epidemic of whooping cough, which proved serious among young children and caused many deaths in the early months of 1906. The average rate of mortality for the last ten years has been 17·74 per mille. Eighty-five deaths were recorded of infants under one year (28 per cent.); between one and five years, 41 (13 per cent.). There is a marked longevity among the Creole peasants and among the liberated Africans who were landed in the Colony from British ships of war engaged in the suppression of the slave trade.

Climate.

59. The following table gives the rainfall and the maximum and minimum shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	Maximum Shade Temperature.	Minimum Shade Temperature.
1901...	102·26	F. 88·5°	F. 68·4°
1902...	87·81	88·0	68·0
1903...	132·96	88·5	68·0
1904...	106·74	87·2	68·2
1905...	88·91	88·0	71·0

The average daily maximum was 83·5°, the minimum 78·3°.

The mean temperature was 80·9°, considerably higher than the average for the previous seven years (78·775°) and much higher than the year before (76·56°), which was the lowest on record.

The average rainfall for the last fifteen years is 100·8 inches, but the value of the rainfall is measured not so much by the inches as by the distribution. Thus, in 1904, although the rainfall was in the aggregate above the average, it was coincident with a calamitous drought, which extended from the middle of February to the end of October, and caused a great agricultural disaster. Similarly, in 1905, many parts of the islands were without any substantial rainfall between June and October, and everywhere the crops were damaged by the intense sun heat and the absence of regular showers. Two droughts in two successive years had the effect of checking the flowering of the cocoanut palms and of the vanilla vines; in the latter case

the almost entire failure of the flowering season has reduced the crop of vanilla in 1906 to one-third of that of a normal year. The cocoanut palms have, however, rallied more quickly, and the influence of the drought—except where trees perished altogether—has passed away. On the other hand, the cloves, cacao, and Liberian coffee—unimportant industries—bore heavy crops.

WIND.

60. The south-east trade winds commenced to blow steadily on the 17th May, and continued fitfully until the 21st November. But the monsoon, though long continued, was less strong than usual, and brought very little rain; the maximum force recorded for twenty-four hours was 17·6 miles per hour, on the 26th August. Meteorological returns were supplied by cable to the Weather Bureau at Simla. The north-west wind at the close of the year was marked by a succession of strong squalls, accompanied by heavy rain throughout December.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

61. The volume of correspondence, which was checked in 1904 by the suspension of the mail service due to strikes at the port of Marseilles, showed a very marked increase in 1905:—

Letters, Papers, and Parcels.

Year	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
External—					
Letters received	65,210	68,028	71,240	67,000	78,000
Letters sent	48,649	53,768	59,700	48,000	58,000
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., received.	61,167	86,684	86,900	85,900	120,500
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., sent.	9,576	7,404	6,620	7,480	10,960
Parcels received	390	1,119	932	1,124	1,166
Parcels sent	1,369	856	656	592	725
Totals	186,361	219,451	229,048	210,096	269,351
Internal—					
Letters and newspapers received and sent.	13,997	43,463	46,624	47,853	51,600

62. The following table shows the business transacted in post office money orders:—

Money Orders.

(including British Postal Orders).

Year	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
External—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	64,302	58,587	60,412	53,323	75,229
Money Orders paid ...	22,107	19,609	16,596	10,097	10,144
Totals	86,409	78,196	77,008	63,420	85,373
Internal—					
Money Orders issued and paid.	—	1,258	3,889	6,426	7,370

The increase over 1904 is partly due to the passing of Ordinance No. 11 of 1904, whereby the maximum which might be transmitted through the post office was raised from £10 to £40, and at the same time the commission on orders to India was reduced from 4 per cent. to 3 per cent. The bulk of the remittances by money order go to India (59 per cent.), the United Kingdom representing 15 per cent., France 9 per cent., and Mauritius 6 per cent. The increase in 1905 in the business with India alone represents more in value than the total increase over 1904. In addition, notes were remitted in insured letters to the value of Rs.67,174, as against Rs.38,176 in 1904; practically the whole of this sum went to India. Were there regular or direct means of communication with India, the greater part of these remittances would have gone in the shape of merchandise.

63. The local receipts from the post office during 1905 amounted to Rs.17,265. The receipts in 1904 have fallen to Rs.12,743, owing in great measure to the suspension of the mail service. The receipts in 1903, on the other hand—Rs.35,183—were abnormally high, owing to purchases by stamp dealers of a new issue of postage stamps. The expenditure has been continually curtailed, and amounted to only Rs.8,619, as compared with Rs.10,095 in 1904 and Rs.14,064 in 1903.

64. The mail service is performed by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, a steamer on the Indian Ocean route, calling once a month outwards and homewards on the line between Marseilles, Djiboutil, Aden, Seychelles, Diego Suarez, in Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius. The homeward-bound steamers touch on the 8th of each month, and the outward steamers on the 11th, thus involving the delay of a month

before a letter can be answered. Similarly, the outward-bound steamer leaves Marseilles on the 25th of each month, the same day on which mails are generally landed, with the same result. The cost of conveyance of mails beyond the Colony amounted to Rs.29,198, paid to the steamship company.

65. There is no island service of telegraph, but a cable station is established at Mahé by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, on the line to Australia. The volume of business actually transacted at Seychelles is as follows:—

Year ending 31st March	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Number of cablegrams received and sent.	2,244	2,399	2,276	2,417	2,527	2,737

This Government pays to the company an annual subsidy of Rs.15,000 (£1,000) towards the maintenance of a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, under an agreement to be in force for twenty years, entered into between the Imperial Government and the company, the total subsidy amounting to £28,000 per annum. The company is not, however, a purveyor of news, but agrees to transmit news telegrams at a special rate. The Government has, therefore, to subsidize Reuter's News Agency under an agreement whereby, in return for a payment of Rs.750 (£50), Reuter contracts to supply 2,500 words per mensem. This service is well rendered.

IX.—GENERAL.

66. The year 1905 was characterized by extreme depression; two successive droughts had diminished the yield of the two principal sources of agricultural wealth, cocoanuts and vanilla; the cessation of external credit had reduced the volume of trade; and all classes had exhausted their resources, and many were plunged into utter poverty. The Government shared in the general misfortunes, and the revenue fell short of the estimates, leading to a deficit of Rs.17,912, and the balance of assets over liabilities fell to Rs.141,510.

There were certain redeeming features; the planters and their labourers can never actually starve, as the bare necessities of living are easily obtained. But the emergency evoked a renewal of energy in several directions. The renewal of cocoanut plantations and their extension, under the advice of the agricultural expert, was a marked feature, and the industries of coprah preparing and soap making were taken up in earnest.

The establishment of engineering works by the firm of Messrs. Baty, Bergne, & Co. provided wages for labour, and many workmen were able to get employment in the outlying islands where cocoanut planting and the digging of guano caused a demand for labour.

By the close of the year the prospects were brighter. The Admiralty had decided to establish its own coaling depôt; a company was formed in Belgium for the desiccation of tropical products, especially cocoanuts, bananas, breadfruit, and manioc; a local industry had sprung up in the preparation of banana flour for the English market; an inquiry for mangrove bark seemed to afford an opportunity of utilising some unexploited resources; it appeared that possibly phosphate rock, apart from guano, might prove commercially of value; and the plantations of Para rubber made in 1903 and 1904 had shown much promise.

Therefore, although without doubt 1906 would prove to be another year of hardship to all, there was promise of capital, and a reasonable hope that several undertakings of value would in the near future take the place of vanilla. For their suggestions and advice the Colony is much indebted to the Director of the Imperial Institute and to Mr. Stanley Gardiner. Mr. H. a'C. Bergne also rendered useful service to the agricultural interests of this Colony, which he represented at the Exhibition held in Zanzibar in August, 1905, where exhibits from this Colony took first prizes in many of the principal agricultural classes.

67. Despite the necessity for the reduction of expenditure in public works, much useful work has been done very cheaply. The greatly needed enlargement and improvement of the Victoria Prison have been effected at a cost of Rs.9,189. The chaussée and bridge at Anse Boileau, on the western coast road, have been made for Rs.1,800. The Anse Corail road—the last of the roads on the programme of my predecessor—has been completed for Rs.2,765. The water supply to the village of Pointe Conan and to the camp of the political prisoners from Uganda has been completed at a cost of Rs.2,198. The cost in most of the above works has been spread over two or three years. The construction of the Niole road, the opening of the bridle path to Crève Coeur, the improvement of the way to Mont Buxton and Signal Hill have been accomplished, without cost, by prison labour. A favourable opportunity was taken for the acquisition of the land and buildings used for Government purposes at Anse Royale, at a cost of Rs.10,000, an investment which represented an annual saving of Rs.720 in rent.

The total expenditure of the Department of Public Works amounted to Rs.45,047, as against an expenditure of Rs.69,085 in 1904. The estimates for 1906 limit expenditure in public works to Rs.28,968.

The schemes most important and pressing for the internal development of the Colony are: (1) The improvement of the water supply to Victoria; estimates have been framed and adopted for a permanent high level service from the Grand St. Louis River, which would serve the whole town and provide a pressure sufficient to deal with fires and to periodically flush the water courses. By means of a turbine a constant power could be secured to be utilised for the lighting of the town and harbour by electric light. The cost is estimated at Rs.60,000; the correspondence, extending over a series of years, and the estimates have been prepared in printed form; the proposals meet with universal acceptance, and have been approved by a consulting engineer, and the commencement of the work is only deferred until funds become available: (2) the work in connection with the erection of a lunatic asylum for Seychelles will commence in 1906. The site has been acquired at Anse Royale and the enclosing wall is to be built in 1906. Meanwhile, temporary arrangements for the care and treatment of insane persons have been approved, and the practice of sending patients to Mauritius, far from their homes and at great cost, will be discontinued. There are also many local claims of less general importance which have been under consideration, but must stand deferred until the revival of prosperity.

68. Under the Letters Patent establishing the Colony of Seychelles are enumerated 89 islands, of which twenty are in the Seychelles Archipelago and administered direct from Mahé; 16 through a Justice of the Peace stationed at Praslin; and 53 are subject to periodical visits by a Visiting Magistrate empowered under the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1902 to regulate the employment of labour and to ensure the maintenance of order in outlying islands. It is the duty of the Visiting Magistrate to investigate and decide petty disputes and to remit important cases for trial before the Court of Seychelles, to investigate the books of the managers, the check rolls and pay lists of labourers, and the provision for hospitals, lock-ups, stores of food and medical requirements. In practice, very little friction occurs either between masters and men or in their relations with the Government. There is frequent communication with Mahé by sailing vessels, labourers engage themselves for short terms, their daily task work is always finished before midday, and their liberal rations are supplemented by fruit and maize as well as by the fish and turtle, which they are able themselves to catch.

All the outlying inhabited islands, 22 in number, were officially visited during 1905—most of them several times—by the Visiting Magistrate or the Inspector of Police, as well as by the Governor, the Curator of the Botanic Station, and by the Percy Sladen Expedition on H.M.S. "Sealark." Including women and children, the mean population was 927; 16 births were registered, and there were 21 deaths (including six by

drowning). There is reason to fear for the fate of the Seigneur des Iles, a lugger of 32 tons, which cleared from Mahé for Marie Louise on a fishing voyage in October last with a crew of seven men; she has not since been heard of.

The British Consul at Tamatave, the Agent of Government at Zanzibar, the Political Resident at Aden, and the Political Agent at Muscat have been communicated with, and have caused watch to be kept. The extraordinary velocity and variation in the ocean currents have, in recent years, carried disabled boats to the mouth of the Kilwa river, in German East Africa, to the coast of Arabia, and to the Maldives, lives having been saved in each case after periods of prolonged privation.

There was no epidemic disease on the islands; the wages bills for the year aggregated to over Rs.90,000, and the average monthly receipts for an adult male labourer amount to Rs.7 to Rs.8 per month, with free lodgings and rations on the statutory scale. No serious differences occurred between masters and men; the Visiting Magistrate dealt with nine cases of no great moment. Owing to the failure of vanilla, employment on the islands—even at reduced wages—is popular, and labour is readily recruited at a monthly wage of Rs.7.

A demand for guano at remunerative prices has led to further developments in its exploitation. The actual quantity exported in 1905 amounted to 3,680 tons, taken from Marie Louise and Flat Island. The supply on these islands will be soon exhausted, but there are deposits on other islands which have been examined and analysed. The guano of the Seychelles Islands is deficient in nitrates, owing to the rainfall, but it is notably rich in phosphates, several recent analyses giving over 29 per cent. of phosphoric acid. Many of the islands are now fully planted with cocoanuts; Silhouette, North Island, Denis, Frigate, Félicité, Marianne, D'Arros, Desroches, Poivre, Providence and Alphonse are very fertile.

69. Mr. F. A. Herchenroder, the Chief Justice, was transferred in March, on promotion to the post of Procureur-General at Mauritius, and was succeeded in May by Mr. E. Blackwood Wright, LL.D.

W. E. Davidson,
Governor.

Government House,
Seychelles.

22nd May, 1906.

ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF BOTANIC STATION FOR THE YEAR 1905.

General Remarks.

The rainfall during 1905 was unfortunately distributed and the vanilla crop for 1906 will be considerably reduced. The weather was very promising until the end of July, but the rain fell abundantly in August and September and the vanilla vines put forth new growth instead of flowering. However, the drought experienced last year from February to October covered this year a shorter period of time, and the cocoanut plantations have not suffered. The shortage of the cocoanut crop which was anticipated took place in 1905 will not be repeated in 1906. It is a pity that the requirements of vanilla and cocoanuts are in some way conflicting; but, having regard to the fall in the price of vanilla and to the better attention which is in consequence being given to the cocoanut plantations, it is much better for this colony to have to place on record a heavy rainfall than a spell of dry weather. Unlike most fruit trees, cocoanut plantations have no need of a period of rest, and the heavier the rainfall the greater their production per acre. The same remark can be applied to orange and lime trees, which should be planted on a much greater scale than they are at present for exportation as fruits and for the production of citrate of lime. The value of fruit exported in 1905 amounts to Rs. 2,092. In short, the climate of Seychelles is highly beneficial to the growth of citrus trees and better attention should be paid to them. Citrate of lime is imported in the United Kingdom to the amount of 1,400 tons annually, and a planter of this colony has succeeded in making a sample of citrate containing 65 per cent. citric acid. The lime industries are specially adapted to Seychelles labour and to the shipping difficulties of the colony, and there is also a certain amount of profit to be derived from them by the production of hand-press oils (worth 3*s.* 6*d.* on the London market). The future of this colony lies in tree planting on a greater scale than it is at present, and not in cultivating herbaceous plants which are so susceptible to climatic variations. Cocoanut plantations can be developed on the madreporic islands to a considerable extent, and those parts of the granite islands which are not occupied by the palms can be entirely devoted to Para rubber planting.

The fall in the price of vanilla has caused an abnormal increase in the amount of cassava planted in Mahé, which will have a prejudicial effect on the soil. These herbaceous plants are cultivated on the slopes of mountains, and the methods of cultivation, derived from the African system of planting on semi-circular mounds of earth, not only lead to an unprofitable crop not exceeding 10 cwt. per acre, worth Rs. 10, but expose the ground to erosion and sterility. Cassava planting should be limited to flat ground, or adopted only as a catch crop in rubber and cocoanut clearings pending the growth of these trees. In the madreporic islands, where the soil is very fertile owing to guano deposits, maize and sweet potatoes should be cultivated on a larger scale for the supply of ground provisions, but such a cultivation should be avoided in Mahé, or even prohibited by legislation in some cases. In most

of the madreporic islands cassava cannot be planted owing to the time required for the growth of these plants, which extends over a longer period than the rainy season prevailing in the outlying islands. Sweet potatoes and maize require only four to five months, and if they are planted with the rains of October the crop can be gathered before the dry south-east monsoon sets in. If cocoanuts were planted on a larger scale in the madreporic islands, the old habit of planting ground provisions on the share system could be re-adopted, and many labourers who are at present busy rendering sterile the soils of Mahé would be engaged in developing the cocoanut industries. The crop of cocoanuts amounts to an average of 18,000,000 nuts in Seychelles. Taking 3,000 nuts as being the production per acre, the area under cocoanut cultivation is thus found to be 6,000 acres. I consider that above 30 per cent. of the soil in Mahé and the principal islands is excellent, and suitable for cocoanuts and Para rubber. The total acreage of the principal islands is about 50,000 acres; there are consequently 9,000 acres left which should be occupied by the above two plants. In the 70 per cent. of grounds remaining there is plenty of room and good soil for vanilla planting, which can be adopted on the summits. In the outlying islands there are 40,000 acres available, and to my knowledge there are 3,000 acres suitable for cocoanut planting. These figures go to show that the cocoanut industries can be extended to cover 12,000 acres instead of 6,000 acres; 6,000 acres of excellent soil can thus be left for Para rubber cultivation. In other words the area under cocoanut plantations can be doubled, and the crop can be trebled at least because the madreporic islands are better adapted to the palms than the granitic soil, which latter lacks lime. I remember to have seen in Flat Island a grove of young cocoanut trees of 22 years which had produced so many nuts that one could not easily walk about the plantation owing to the abnormally numerous heaps of husks. An average of 60 nuts per tree is readily obtained on such land, against an average of 36 nuts for the granitic islands. For the 70 per cent. of the ground left in the principal islands, the cultivation which I have advocated since 1901 is that of selected rubber vines, pineapples, and plants yielding perfumes, such as citronella. These plants can grow in poor soils, and extend their shoots above the granite boulders which cover large tracks of the hill sides. These granite boulders are easily decomposed, and contain potassium silicates which would supply abundant nurture to these hardy plants. Between young Para rubber plants I think there is room for bananas, which would supply the raw material for the promising industry of flour production newly started with success by the Messrs. Petit. It should, however, be remembered that plaintains require good soil, and that after a few crops the ground must be manured heavily. In the report of the Imperial Institute for 1905 it is stated that the removal of the bunches of bananas from a plantation represents an annual loss per acre to the soil of 495 lbs. of nitrogen, 110 lbs. of phosphoric acid, 1,056 lbs. of potassium and sodium, and 110 lbs. of lime.

This brief review of the agricultural position of this colony is intended to show that the export of cocoanuts can be increased from 18 to 36 millions of nuts, that Para rubber and plantain can be grown on 6,000 acres and that the rest of the ground can be devoted to minor industries derived from vanilla, limes, rubber vines, pine apples, and plants yielding perfumes.

I am glad to state that a few planters have realised the necessity of planting on the above lines, and that already much capital is employed in exploiting these new industries. The movement would, however, be accelerated if the colony were provided with agricultural banks or with capital and planters from abroad. The position of the colony is not bad in itself; the exports of agricultural produce being on the increase and reaching this year Rs. 800,000 in spite of the drought and the fall in the price of vanilla. When the value of the exports reaches Rs. 1,000,000, it is stated by competent persons that its financial situation is good. I know very many cocoanut estates which are practically abandoned, and on which the production

could be increased tenfold with a little attention and more working capital. For example, the coral plateaux, which in Praslin extend from "Cotes d'Or Estate" to "Anse Kerlan," cover an area of more than 1,200 acres of level ground very suitable for cocoanuts, but I fear that they do not produce more than 40,000 nuts. They could produce over 360,000 nuts if the soil were cleared of the overgrowth of trees, ploughed and manured. This locality is within easy reach of the guano islands, and the sea weeds are so abundant on its shores that layers of over a foot deep are accumulated and washed up every year on a beach of seven miles without being utilised. Besides manuring, ploughing in these coral lands is essential, because the soil is becoming sour in many places. The clearing of the over-and under-growth is also neglected, and it is no exception to count 20 trees (Casuarina, Terminalia, Calophyllum, &c.) for one cocoanut tree on many estates. There are many other parts of Seychelles where the same sad state of things is to be seen.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Month.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Rainfall.	No. of Rainy Days.
January	80·46 (83·42)	77·41 (77·41)	83·1 (87·51)	76·8 (74·42)	13·40 (18·41)	16 (16)
February	82·12 (82·71)	76·90 (76·35)	83·5 (87·80)	77·0 (75·17)	6·03 (10·60)	11 (10)
March	84·56 (86·62)	78·06 (78·30)	85·6 (91·32)	79·4 (75·92)	3·47 (2·37)	9 (7)
April	84·45 (83·50)	76·14 (74·00)	84·8 (91·82)	78·6 (75·15)	4·22 (4·63)	12 (8)
May...	83·41 (84·88)	77·66 (77·46)	87·9 (89·13)	79·7 (75·05)	9·54 (9·36)	16 (14)
June	80·10 (81·85)	69·11 (75·21)	82·1 (86·20)	77·0 (74·75)	0·89 (1·24)	8 (12)
July	80·29 (82·08)	74·12 (74·39)	81·6 (86·30)	76·9 (73·6)	0·62 (0·58)	11 (9)
August	80·31 (80·94)	72·92 (74·44)	81·3 (84·68)	76·4 (73·61)	6·25 (6·50)	14 (14)
September ...	81·01 (82·55)	76·94 (75·32)	82·1 (86·50)	76·1 (73·86)	12·92 (11·10)	16 (14)
October	82·42 (85·70)	76·79 (76·75)	83·4 (88·85)	76·7 (74·50)	0·48 (0·13)	3 (2)
November... ...	83·27 (85·60)	77·98 (78·02)	84·5 (90·44)	77·0 (77·12)	5·58 (1·65)	10 (10)
December	81·16 (82·80)	77·20 (76·20)	83·0 (88·18)	77·3 (73·46)	25·51 (28·19)	28 (28)
	83·5 (83·5)	77·3 (76·1)	81·9 (88·3)	76·4 (74·7)	88·91 (97·76)	154 (144)

The above figures show that the Botanic Station situated in a valley at 250 feet altitude is moister and much warmer than the Port Office, which is built at the end of a pier 200 yards long. The figures in brackets are those which were registered at the Botanic Station.

Expenditure, Receipts, Sale of Plants, &c.

The expenditure for the year was :—

Botanic Station and Crown Lands...	...	Rs. 9,023.73
The rents of Crown Lands	...	Rs. 13,870.16

The vanilla crop from Capucin produced Rs. 333,74, and the receipts from sale of plants amounted to Rs. 1,040.83. The plants sold were principally :—

Cocoanuts.	Para rubber.
Ceara rubber.	Nutmegs.
Cola.	Cacao.
Cardamons.	Lemon grass.
Citronella.	Ilang-Ilang.
Fruit trees.	Timber trees.

Orrnamental plants.

Laboratory.

The following are the analyses which were made during the year :—

Guano	68
Soil	2
Toddy	3
Bananas	1
Bacca (fermented cane juice)	8
Citrate of lime	3
Suspected poisonous seeds	1
Suspected opium	1
Lime	3

There is an increased demand for guano analysis, and this will lead to an extension of the trade in that article, which exists in considerable quantities in nearly all the outlying islands. I cannot but emphasize again this year what I have stated several times before in my reports, viz., the very low cost at which this article can be purchased in Seychelles (Rs. 20 a ton), and the enormous quantity of phosphoric acid which is left unused in this colony and which could be so easily exported.

A complete analysis of an average sample was made at the Imperial Institute, and the following results obtained :—

Silica	0·08
Ferric oxide and alumina	0·26
Lime	36·01
Magnesia	0·49
Potash	0·10
Soda	0·29
Phosphoric acid	29·02
Sulphuric acid	0·60
Chlorine	0·07
Carbonic acid	1·89
Ammonia	0·26
Nitric acid	1·47
Organic matter	21·25
Moisture	8·00
	99·79
Nitrogen	1·33
Soluble phosphoric acid	5·10

This guano forms the soil of most of the outlying islands and if one considers how rich it is in lime, nitrogen, and phosphoric acid one cannot

help thinking what astounding results could be obtained in these islands by employing proper methods of cultivation. The presence of other alkalis (potash, soda) and of nitric acid makes it a sure guarantee of the profits which are bound to accrue from the investment of capital in agricultural enterprise in those rich islands which are only visited by fishermen as a rule. In my report for 1901 I estimated the deposits as amounting to hundreds of thousands of tons, and I can repeat these figures without the slightest fear of being accused of exaggeration, I am more afraid of being below the mark.

I am still engaged in much other laboratory work dealing with the mineral composition of vanilla and cocoanuts and I am very often kept working on Sundays and public holidays from want of an assistant. If the Botanic Station is to be continued I should gladly undertake to teach agricultural chemistry to promising boys and thus obtain at an early date the necessary assistance.

Experiment Plots.

The following is a list of the plots on which the manuring of vanilla is being studied :—

No.	1	...	...	Kainit and nitrogen.
"	2	...	...	Coral and phosphatic guano.
"	3	...	...	Coral.
"	4	...	...	Kainit, coral, guano.
"	5	...	...	Kainit.
"	6	...	...	Coral and nitrogen.
"	7	...	...	Kainit, coral, guano.
"	E 8	...	...	Kainit, coral, guano, nitrogen.
"	9	...	...	Kainit, coral, guano, nitrogen.
"	E 10	...	...	Kainit, guano, coral.
"	11	...	...	Kainit, guano.
"	E 12	...	...	Nitrogen.
"	13	...	...	Guano, nitrogen.
"	14	...	...	Guano, kainit.
"	15	...	...	Guano.
"	16	...	...	No manure.
"	E 17	...	...	No manure.
"	E 18	...	...	Guano.
"	19	...	...	Guano, Kainit.

The plots marked E are those in which vanilla is grown in ordinary soil, in the others the orchid is planted in fibrous roots of the common fern (*Gleichenia dichotoma*). Eighteen months have elapsed since the cuttings were planted. They are at present full grown vines and those which were planted in ordinary soil have developed much less than those which were grown from the beginning in fern roots. A few of the former possess a yellowish appearance, which is striking, even in wet weather. In all the basins in which the vanilla is growing, the roots have developed alongside the walls, none having extended as much as one foot from the plants towards the centre of the basins. The cuttings had sprouted in the proportion of 62·5 per cent. in fern roots and of 27 per cent. in ordinary soil on the 16th December, 1904, or three months after planting. In March, 1905 the shoots were two feet long in the basins containing fern roots and only six inches in the others. It was decided at that time to put a small quantity of fern roots on the surface of the basins containing ordinary soil in order to accelerate the growth of the vines growing in them. In August all the vines were well developed, but on examination of the roots it was found that none went deeper than six inches in fern roots and that in ordinary soil they were fewer in number, shorter and many of them sun

burnt. The aërial roots on reaching the soil were found to make excellent growth and to produce many rootlets. For this reason it seems that much importance should be attached to strengthening and protecting the signs of life in the lower part of the cutting. In an ordinary plantation the vines are in great number found dead or sun burnt at the base together with all the roots which were produced on that part of the cutting. When this happens the vines produce aërial roots which replace the subterranean ones but much of the energy of the plant is lost in this new production of roots and the flowering delayed.

The action of the sun on the roots is so striking that in a second series of basins to repeat the experiments which are found successful in the first, I noticed that the growth of the vine is checked when the layer of good loose or fibrous soil is less than two inches deep. Under these circumstances, it seems advisible to plant vanilla in hollowed ground or trenches six inches deep so as to keep more easily the roots out of the reach of the burning sun but the soil must be porous enough to prevent its being water-logged. This is not done in Seychelles where vanilla is grown on the surface of the ground and weeds or twigs accumulated in heaps to protect the roots. This kind of production is insufficient because as a rule planters protect the roots only once a year when the time comes for pruning the vines and clipping the props (March–June). I wish to emphasize the sad consequences of this exposure of the roots because it accounts to some extent for the irregularity of growth and flowering in any one plantation. These physical conditions of growth are of great importance for delicate plants like orchids, and even when the soil is not porous I think that an attempt should be made to plant in trenches filled first with a good layer of broken stones and then with six inches at least of fibrous soil. It was thought that improvement in the growth of the vines could also be obtained by manuring them. Up to now the results obtained are very promising although the manuring was started after the rains in November last or a few months ago.

After several investigations I came to the conclusion that a careful examination of the roots while the plant was under treatment with manure would establish which kind of manure would be welcomed by the vines and which not. Regarding phosphates I have employed phosphatic guano from Flat Island which contains 72 per cent. of tribasic phosphate and only 0·40 nitrogen (seven kilos per basin). These rocks were broken in small pieces like macadams and placed at mid-distance between two rows of vines placed four feet apart. The coral was used in just the same way (five kilos per basin). Kainit was also employed in the solid state (one kilo per basin) but as this salt is hygroscopic small quantities were arranged in a layer of cocoanut husks placed also at mid-distance between the vines. The kainit would thus dissolve slowly and be absorbed by the cocoanut husks. After three months it was found to be still incompletely dissolved under these conditions.

Nitrogen is employed in the soluble state as nitrate of soda. The vines are watered once a week with weak solutions of 8 to 16 grammes in 100 litres of water (50 litres per basin). As far as these experiments go, it is interesting to record the root development which immediately followed the application of these manures. As already stated, the roots were, previous to the application, all found within 18 inches of the walls of the basins, but three weeks after the application numerous roots covered with hairs had found their way to the manures where previously no roots were found. This development of the roots, together with the growth of the plant, will thus afford a double criterion for the choice of manures.

Other experimental plots for the manuring of cocoanuts were started at Barbarons this year with the cordial assistance of the proprietor and the manager of this important estate. Three fields were selected, one in granitic ground and the two others in madreporic sand.

No. 1.—Madreporic Sand.

Small field in which all plants were dying of the disease. An acre has been delimited amongst the dead and dying trees, of which there are only 12 left, and the ground newly planted in November. The insects will be kept in check by burning the dead wood in which they breed, and the field has been divided into four plots.

1. No manure.
2. Green manuring.
3. Guano, 4 cwts. to the acre.
4. Guano and kainit and green manures.

Fields Nos. 2 and 3 are divided into five plots of one acre each.

1. No manure, rubbish left on the ground as usual.
2. Rubbish dug in, with a sprinkling of 500 lbs. of lime.
3. Guano and kainit 4 cwts., and green manures rubbish burnt and hoed in.
4. Guano and kainit 2 cwts., and green manures rubbish burnt and hoed in.
5. Guano and kainit 2 cwts., rubbish left in lines between the rows.

These two fields have been found to contain very little potash and phosphoric acid, viz.:—

	1. Granitic soil.	2. Madreporic soil.
Phosphoric acid	0·060 per cent.	0·040 per cent.
Potash	0·038 „	0·039 „

The plantations were thinned and the trees put at a minimum distance of two feet apart, most of them were originally planted 15 feet apart.

At Capucin and Government House small experimental fields of rubber and coccanuts have been also started this year.

Distribution of Information on Agricultural Matters.

I was asked during the year to visit the following estates and localities:—

1. Silhoutte.
2. Barbarons.
3. Anse Boileau.
4. Takamaka.
5. Intendance.
6. Pointe Capucin.
7. Cascade.
8. Anse Aux Pins.
9. Anse Roya'e.
10. Morne Blanc.
11. Sans Souci.
12. Ma Constance.
13. St. Antoine.
14. Mon Plaisir.
15. Côtes d'Or.
16. Amitié.
17. Salazie.
18. Anse Kerlan.
19. Pointe Chevalier.
20. Anse Possession.
21. Cousin.
22. Ile Aride.
23. Marie Louise Island.
24. Des Neufs Island.
25. Rémire Island.
26. Flat Island.
27. St. Pierre Island.

This last island being very little known to residents and out of the way it may be worth while describing it in this report.

It is situated at 9°20′ latitude and 50°43′ longitude to the south-west of Providence, and is the third island of the group, the second one being named Cerf Island, and wrongly considered as a mere reef. It is no less than 400 miles from Mahé, and it took me 20 days to visit it and report on its agricultural capabilities.

In spite of many stories one hears in Mahé about the difficulty of approaching St. Pierre, we had no hesitation in anchoring at one cable length from the beach in four fathoms of water, although the sea was rough and the south-east wind blowing heavily. A very good anchorage is found to the N.N.W. of a cocoanut tree, where there is enough protection against the S.E. winds, and where one can get easily under way, if the wind changes to the S.W. for a day or two.

It was easy enough for us to land at once and carry on our investigations on the island, a sandy beach of 20 yards being visible at 180 yards to the eastward of the cocoanut tree at low water.

In order to avoid possible mistakes in anchoring in the future, we cut down another cocoanut tree which was growing at 300 yards distance from the first one, although lower in height. These two cocoanut trees were the only ones to be found on the island. At high tide it is even possible to land at a safe point just in front of the cocoanut tree if one jumps out of the boat on the hard coral at the right moment.

The whole island is formed of the well-known hard cut-out coral locally called "champignons," without top soil. It is possible that this island was at one time much higher above water than it is at present, although it is still about 20 feet high in many places. It is gradually being disintegrated by rain and guano solutions.

We stayed at St. Pierre from the 29th of August to the 3rd of September, and the whole island being covered with bushes we had to open it by two perpendicular lines running E.W. and N.S. before attempting to study the nature of the guano deposits. The line N.S. is 3,900 feet long and the line E.W. a little shorter; we opened only the half of the second line, and found it to be 1,545 feet on the west side; it is longer on the east side. The shape of the island is nearly elliptical, and we found it by calculation to be about 200 acres in extent. It is divided into three very greatly differing and concentric zones. The first on the beach, which is variable in width, is formed of numerous plans interrupted by groves of trees where the "var" (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) is missing. The second zone, which is very wide in the north, possesses numerous climbers (especially *passiflora foetida*, *Lintylophora asthmatica*, *Wright Caesalpinia*, *sepiavia Rox*) and extensive bushes of var. In both these zones I have noticed the following plants besides those already mentioned :—

Bois d'amande.
Veloutier.
Postulacca.
Various Ipomeas.
Tanghin rouge.
Mapou.
Bois de rose.
Bois cato.
Brede martin.
Climbing Eugenia.

The most common tree is Tanghin rouge, which is so common in Madagascar, and which I never found before in Seychelles outside Mahé and Ile Aride.

The third zone in the centre is lower than the surrounding grounds. It extends over a diameter of 1,200 feet and is more barren. We found a few bushes of Tanghin here and there, and the ground in many places cut into big crevices in which the movements of the tide can be followed. We were lost one evening in the bushes and caught by night in this zone, from which it was difficult to get away.

The birds are still very numerous on the island, but they belong with a few exceptions to the Salidæ and Tregatidæ families. Both are heavy birds, which injured the two cocoanut trees by perching on the leaves.

The guano deposits are very abundant in the two sections of the island which I had selected for our investigations. On the beach the deposits are at intervals covered by sand projected by the storms. Pebbles, and even stones as big as a child's head, are projected in this way to a great distance through the crevices of the coral beach. I have found very good guano (25 to 35 per cent. phosphoric acid) on about 25 acres of land, and in sufficient depth to allow an extraction of 500 tons to the acre. I have taken numerous other samples in other parts of the island where the deposits may be also very abundant although the vegetation is not so luxuriant, and consequently the ground more barren. I do not speak of the hard substratum, which in some places contain as much phosphates as the earth guano; but if this phosphatic rock can be exported, nearly the whole island could be exploited and made to produce millions of tons of phosphates. Except for ground provisions, which can be grown alongside the beach in the sandy deposits, there is not enough top soil on the island to warrant planting on any great scale. The hard substratum is too near the surface for even the hardy cocoanut trees to grow. It is, moreover, probable that this island suffers at intervals from cyclones which are so prejudicial to these palms.

Besides the visits which I had to pay to these far distant localities, and which have taken up much of my time, I have been engaged this year in continuing the discussion of papers read at the agricultural lectures inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor at the end of 1904.

The first meeting, which took place at Victoria, was attended by about 40 persons, and the subject was the cocoanut disease and the treatment of the soil in worn out estates. This lecture was repeated at Anse Royale in May, and the number of persons present exceeded 60. This second lecture was followed by field demonstrations at Barbarons, where the disease was studied and the life history of the beetles traced.

In July another lecture was given in the Council chamber and presided over by His Excellency the Governor, the subject being the culture and preparation of cardamoms. This meeting was also attended by 40 persons, including the leading members of the community.

The great analogy between Ceylon cardamoms and the Seychelles "longouze" (*Amomum Daniellii, Hook.*) was pointed out, and specimens exhibited. The numerous ravines in which the "longouze" grows wild and many other similar localities were described as being very suitable to Ceylon cardamoms on account of the protection from the wind and the presence of proper shade trees. Shade and protection from the wind were shown to be the only factors worth considering, all the other climatic and agrologic conditions of the Seychelles mountains being identical with those of Ceylon.

The numerous uses to which cardamoms are put in India and Europe were enumerated, and the methods of cultivation and preparation, which I studied in Ceylon, were treated in detail. The analogy between vanilla and cardamom preparation was insisted upon, and the fact emphasized that the crop of one plant followed that of the other. The cardamom seeds brought from Ceylon in February, 1903, were sown at the Botanic Station, the seedlings nursed until November, and then planted out at Capucin Crown

Land. The plants were grown in poor laterite soil under shade of eriodendron and spathodea. The first flowers appeared in July, 1905, and the first ripe fruits were gathered in December, 1905. The Malabar variety ripened a few weeks earlier than the Mysore variety. Three planters applied after the meeting for cardamom plants, and all the suckers that could be disposed of, viz., 1,000, were sold during 1905. It was ascertained that Indian cardamoms were sold at Rs. 2.50 a pound on the local market, and that the whole Seychelles crop could be consumed locally or exported to Mauritius and South Africa, thus ensuring the possibility of establishing a secondary industry of some value in this colony. The ravines where cardamoms should be planted are not occupied by other plants, and those planters who have gone in for the new product have reported favourably on the growth of the suckers which they had purchased.

The third lecture was also delivered in Victoria and presided over by His Excellency the Governor, but only 20 persons were in attendance. The subject treated was one which has occupied the attention of the planters since my arrival in this colony, and perhaps it was considered to be obsolete by some of them. The attention of the public was again called to the suitability of Seychelles for rubber planting, because of all the equatorial products rubber is the cheapest to produce, and appears to have the brightest future before it. It is a plant the cultivation of which is eminently suited to countries such as Seychelles, in which virgin soil, so necessary to the more exacting herbaceous plants, is now practically non-existent.

Soil which has lost the richness required by annuals and triennials should be devoted to the production of trees, whose longer roots are able to obtain nourishment where those of the smaller plants cannot penetrate. Amongst trees, it is fortunate that there are some, the cocoanut and rubber for instance, which will produce on a given surface as much as or even more in value than any herbaceous plant, and which require but an inferior quality of soil and less care and cultivation. In many countries it has been found that the only way to utilize poor soils is to give them up to arboriculture. It is by these facts that the planters of Seychelles were urged to take up the planting of rubber, and the methods of cultivation and preparation were then briefly described to them. The uses of rubber were mentioned and the very important fact was carefully noted that the plantation rubber is likely to drive the wild rubber from the market. The presence of so many trees containing rubber in Seychelles, where the four big families of rubber plants are represented, was put forward, and lastly the statement of the results obtained in countries similar to Seychelles was based not on suppositions but on carefully controlled results furnished by Ceylon planters who justifiably pride themselves on the correctness of their agricultural returns.

In November a fourth lecture was delivered on the subject of the preparation of essential oils and on the culture of plants yielding perfumes. The assembly consisted of about 40 persons who took much interest in the figures put forward, and in the samples produced at the Botanic Station.

It was remarked that plants yielding perfumes are cultivated to a very slight extent in the tropical countries and that in this part of the world, the island of Réunion was the only one where this interesting industry was developed, though the climate is drier than that of Seychelles, and there are hurricanes to cause destruction. It was urged that the moist, warm, and calm climate of Seychelles was exceptionally favourable to plants yielding perfumes. The essences formed in the young shoots afterwards accumulate in the flowers and so it is as pointed out that the longer the period of vegetable activity the great amount of perfume elaborated in a given plant. For this reason it was also mentioned that many plants which produce only one crop in dry and cool climates are able to give several crops a year in moist and warm countries. For example many trees such as Ilang-Ilang and Chinese bigarade (*citrus limonellus*), which yield a good essence, flower three times a year in Seychelles.

It was stated that in 1901 England and France alone imported essential oils and extracts to the amount of £100,000, that the science of combining perfumes was sufficiently developed to welcome new and good preparations and that as essences were valuable and not bulky, exporters were not handicapped by questions of freight.

The methods of preparing essences were fully described and a little citronella oil was being distilled during the lecture. The methods of distillation by steam were those which were insisted upon and the samples exhibited consisted of :—

Ilang-Ilang	yield	1·0	per cent.
Citronella, Ceylon	„	0·5	„
Lemon grass, Ceylon	„	0·4	„
Lemon grass, Seychelles	„	0·3	„
Bigarade	„	0·2	„
Mozambique orange	„	1·0	„

and the attention of planters was also called to annamon, camphor, vanilla, cloves, nutmeg, patchouli and the numerous orange and citron trees which succeed so well in this humid country.

All these lectures were reported at Praslin Grand Anse and at La Digue in December and were in both places favourably received by the planters.

In December also, a few days before his departure from Seychelles, Professor Gardiner was invited by the English speaking community to deliver a lecture on the agricultural and marine resources of this Colony. The assembly which crowded the council chamber was much impressed by the figures put forward by Mr. Gardiner, who dwelt at some length on the recources of the Seychelles waters (1) fish, (2) oyster shells, (3) sponges; and on the cultivation of (1) cocoanut, (2) vanilla, (3) rubber, (4) maize, (5) tobacco. Many points which appeared to open the ground of endless discussions were clearly examined and many arguments energetically started which will serve as a guide to the planters and leading members of this Colony. It is unfortunate that this lecture was not fully reproduced in the local press.

Notes on Economic Plants.

The production of cocoanuts for 1904 and 1905 amounts to :—

	1904.	1905.
Nuts exported	882,044	551,135
„ converted into oil	11,096,000	9,915,400
„ „ „ coprah	1,781,333	2,077,019
„ „ „ soap	1,590,000	2,451,099
„ consumed locally	4,000,000	4,000,000
	19,349,377	18,994,653

The deficit which was anticipated last year owing to the drought is very small indeed. The average crop in Seychelles from 1891–1901 was 16,552,375 nuts, and it is only since 1902 that part of the nuts were turned into coprah after much discussion, which, nevertheless, served to show that 100 lbs. of coprah, worth only Rs. 8 when turned locally into oil and poonac, could fetch at least Rs. 10 if exported. Coprah exportation and soap manufacture are steadily increasing, but I think that there are still

far too many nuts turned into oil with imperfect machinery. The returns for 1905 are satisfactory, and prove that much more attention is paid to coconnut plantation than formerly. Most of the planters have realised the necessity of placing their valuable trees under observation and of removing the insects which attack them. These insects identified at the Imperial Institute are :—

No. 1. Calandra stigmaticollis Gyll, a small weevil.

No. 2. Melitomma insulare Fairm, a beetle.

They attack the trees in almost all localities, although I have not traced them at La Digue and North Island as yet. When the bunches of fruit and the supporting leaves show signs of drooping the trees are seriously attacked, but even at this period if prompt action is taken in excising the diseased tissue containing the grubs and tarring the wounds, they easily recover. I have noticed on many estates that the rubbish which was formerly accumulated round the trees is, according to the advice given, burnt or scattered broadcast on the plantations. In some cases I have, however, come across a few plantations where the burning of the rubbish was carried on too extensively, and fire communicated to the stems of the trees, thus laying them open to the attack of the beetles. The places where the disease is prevailing to a greater extent are precisely those where the stems have been injured by fire. Another good ground for the beetles is found on those trees which grow quickly and thinly in the shade, forming soft tissues as opposed to the ordinary wood of a sound and well-grown cocoanut tree which is always iron hard and insect proof.

Cardamoms.

This plant makes good growth in the highlands of Seychelles, and in the experimental plantations at Capucin the first crop was obtained 26 months after planting. As stated in other parts of this report, this spice, if produced in this colony, can be consumed locally and exported to Mauritius and to those parts of Africa near Seychelles, where Indians bulk considerably in the population.

Cotton.

The sea-island seeds are not obtainable in Seychelles, and no other variety will pay. The few planters residing in the out-lying islands have delayed the experiments which they started with ordinary cotton. They are keeping to maize and tobacco growing for the present. The seeds from Egypt were planted in October at Marie Louise, but November having been very dry, the plants flowered when only two feet high. They are improving since the showers of the N.W. monsoon, which are still prevailing.

Citrate of Lime.

I have to record the successful preparation by a planter of a sample of citrate of lime containing :—

65·10 citric acid
2·77 per cent. chalk.

It was prepared with imported chalk after two unsuccessful attempts had been made by him to prepare the article with Seychelles lime, which can, however, be rendered sufficiently pure for the purpose. A sample of carefully prepared lime after six months exposure to the air was found to contain :—

Free lime	0·11
Carbonate of lime	98·30

This sample was pure enough to be employed in the preparation of citrate. The difficulty which one meets with in employing Seychelles lime for the making of citrate of lime is that the latter substance contains both lime and carbonate of lime, and the end of the neutralisation is not so well marked as in the process in which imported chalk is employed. This difficulty can, however, be overcome by employing powdered and sifted coral instead of more or less impure lime.

Plantain.

The Messrs. Petit have succeeded in preparimg a very good flour from the true plantain which has been analysed at the Imperial Institute and valued at 20*s*. a cwt. These gentlemen have erected a factory provided with up-to-date machinery and appliances which permit a quick drying of the fruits in 18 hours at the low temperature of 150° F. In the Messrs. Petit's apparatus the flavour of the plantain is kept and the flour produced possesses an orange colour which has been so much appreciated on the London market that orders for a large supply have already been received by the above gentlemen.

The varieties of plantain which give this orange flour are peculiar to Seychelles and derived from varieties introduced long ago from Mauritius, Bourbon, and Madagascar. Change of climate and soil have brought incidental variations in the original forms. There are two varieties only which are used by the Messrs. Petit, they are known locally as Bananes St. Jacques and Bananes Malgaches. Both are modified forms of the true plantain (*Musa Sapientium, var. Paradisiaca Linn.*) although Mr. Jumelle in "Les Plantes alimentaires, 1901" states that the Bourbon variety belongs to Musa Corniculata, Rumph. The flowers are whitish, the petal is only half as long as the five-toothed calyx. The pseudo stem in both varieties is tall with reddish blotches near on the petioles. The principal difference between the two varieties lies in the inflorescense and in the fruits. In St. Jacques the rachis is short and deprived of the hanging flower cone, all the flowers being fertile as a rule. The fruits are very regular in size and narrowed into a beak turned upwards. The cluster of fruits number four to five in well-grown plants and about ten fruits ten inches in length are found in each cluster. In Maagaches the rachis is long and provided with the hanging cone. The fruits about 80 in number, shorter and less curved are grouped into eight to ten clusters. The lowermost fruits are bigger than those further along the rachis. The flavour is better in this latter variety. Both are attacked by a weevil at the collar and steps are being taken to produce flour from varieties which are more resistant to the disease. Liability to the disease is attributed locally to the plantain having a sweet sap which attracts the beetles. A comparative analysis has not proved this to be the case and the sap of the resistant varieties as well as that of the true plantain does not contain sugar. The destruction of the beetles may become a necessity when plantains will occupy more ground in Seychelles. There will be, however, no difficulty if this Colony can be supplied with carbon bisulphide or the other potassium salts which are employed to combat the phylloxera disease in Europe.

Rubber.

Four years have elapsed since this plant was recommended as being the most suitable to the soil, climate, and labour conditions of this colony. The Government has gone into heavy expenses for the introduction of seeds and the last consignment which was received during the year (50,000 seeds) was immediately purchased by ten planters at the price of four cents a seed. A planter had on his account introduced also 50,000 seeds. In both cases about 25 per cent. of the seeds germinated and the rubber seedlings at present planted out in Seychelles amount to over 30,000 plants of from one to three years of age.

The seedlings that were first planted out in November and December, 1903, have made steady and excellent growth, the best of them having

reached one foot girth and over at the base. The planters nearly all admit now that this plant grows well, and it is a pity that they did not come to this conclusion at an earlier date, as they were recommended to do, because the rush of rubber planting in Ceylon since 1904 will probably lead to greater difficulties in obtaining seeds from that Colony. The soil and the climate of Seychelles are evidently favourable to the growth of Para rubber, which thrives even in laterite soils where no other plants are at present growing. The best plants are those which were planted in the so-called marshes of Seychelles, which are merely deep alluvial soils, being formed of the surface soil washed down from the pools and accumulated on the plateaux. These alluvial soils are not sour and they are easily drainable; they are better adapted to Para rubber than to cocoanuts, because they are more or less submerged on account of the planters not being, as a rule, in a position to have them drained properly. When cocoanuts are planted in the marshes, the seed nuts are placed on the ground and the plants issued from them are not only insufficiently rooted but the base of the stem, not being under ground, becomes easily accessible to the beetles. It is pointed out elsewhere that at least 6,000 acres are available in Seychelles for rubber cultivation. I am indebted to a planter for the following figures, drawn up by measuring 100 trees in his plantation :—

—	Height.	Circumference.	
		At the base.	At 3 feet.
	feet.	inches.	inches.
Best plants...	30	14	6½
Medium plants	22	10	4
Smallest „	15	6½	3

On another estate a few plants were in December, 1903, planted out in the jungle without any clearing or holing, they were visited only after three years, and some of them found to measure seven inches at the base. On Crown Land, Capucin, 1,200 feet altitude, stumps one year old were planted in September, 1904. After 15 months growth they measured six to 10 inches circumference at the base and 16 to 20 feet high. These figures go to show that the whole of the islands, from the summits to the seashore, are suitable for Para rubber planting. The sea breeze does not check its growth in the least, contrary to the expectations of planters from the Far East, the best tree at Praslin being planted at 20 yards from the beach.

VANILLA.

Owing to the fall in the price of vanilla, I was asked to prepare an extract from inferior vanilla in order to try to avoid exporting low grade beans as such. The experiments are not yet completed, and the extracts will soon be forwarded to the Imperial Institute for valuation. A simple maceration of 400 grammes of vanilla in four litres of alcohol is not sufficient, and the modus operandi which has given the best results is the following :—

The vases containing vanilla arranged in the form of a battery and alcohol at 80 to 85 degrees allowed to remain one week in one vase before being transferred to the next containing fresh vanilla. A sort of diffusion is then practised until the four or six vases have received the alcoholic solution four or six times each.

R. DUPONT,
Curator, Botanic Station.

31st March, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
461	British Solomon Islands	1903–1905
462	Malta	1904–1905
463	Grenada	1904
464	St. Vincent	„
465	Gold Coast	„
466	Barbados	1904–1905
467	Uganda Protectorate	„
468	Somaliland Protectorate	„
469	Trinidad and Tobago	„
470	Lagos	1904
471	Bahamas	1904–1905
472	British Central Africa	„
473	Mauritius	1904
474	Fiji	„
475	East Africa Protectorate...	1904–1905
476	Northern Nigeria	1904
477	British Guiana	1904–1905
478	Leeward Islands	„
479	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
480	Basutoland	„
481	Ceylon	1904
482	St. Lucia	„
483	Ashanti	1905
484	Bermuda	„
485	Hong Kong	„
486	St. Helena	„
487	Weihaiwei	„
488	Gold Coast...	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Islands	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.

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No. 520.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 489.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

June, 1907.

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ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY CURATOR OF THE BOTANIC STATION, VICTORIA, 1906. 33

DEC 12 1908
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No. 520.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 489.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
2nd April, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1906, to which is annexed a report by Mr. R. Dupont, the Curator of the Botanic Station. Six copies of the Blue Book are forwarded by this mail.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

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REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1906 amounted to Rs.419,932, a total in excess of the Estimate by Rs.40,474 and of the actual receipts in 1905 by Rs.44,153. But, for purposes of comparison, a sum of Rs.11,816 has to be deducted from the total, representing the balance outstanding in the Treasury books in respect of the years 1900-5 under the heading "Miscellaneous Receipts, not Revenue," which sum, under instructions of the Colonial Audit Office was transferred to account as revenue. The true revenue for the year was Rs.408,116.

2. The expenditure of the Colony in 1906 amounted to Rs. 370,971, representing a saving under the estimates of Rs. 7,103, and as compared with the actual expenditure of 1905, a decrease of Rs.22,720.

The actual net revenue in 1906 exceeded the actual expenditure by Rs.37,145.

The revenue for 1907 has been estimated at Rs. 385,875, and the expenditure has been fixed at Rs. 375,697.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1902	437,465	497,479
1903	467,668	516,331
1904	383,096	447,939
1905	375,779	393,691
1906	419,932	370,971

4. The revenue and expenditure of the Local Boards of Health established for the Central District (town of Victoria), for the South Mahé District, and for the Islands of Praslin and La Digue, are now included in the general statements of revenue and expenditure. In terms of Ordinance No. 32 of 1902, the Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. These Boards, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, are composed of a number of the most prominent persons, unofficial and official, whose interests are identified with those of the respective districts, under nomination by the Governor. Large powers of self-government entrusted to them have been wisely and satisfactorily used.

The Votes allocated to the Local Boards in the Estimates for 1906 are as follows:—

Name of Boards.	Amount.	Actual Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Central District	17,280	14,883
South Mahé	3,600	3,495
Praslin	2,000	1,546
La Digue	1,500	1,330
Total	24,380	21,254

The total working for the year shows a saving of Rs. 3,126 on the grants assigned to the Boards; the actual expenditure presents economies to the amount of Rs.4,476, as compared with the expenditure in 1905 of Rs.8,941, as compared with the expenditure in 1904, and of Rs.14,740, as compared with that of 1903. The grants for 1907 have been fixed at Rs.22,705.

Details of Revenue 1905 *and* 1906.

5. The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1905 and 1906:—

Head of Receipts.	1905.	1906.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	167,857 19	179,585 87
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	6,301 99	6,349 90
3. Licences, &c.	49,110 58	48,894 78
4. Taxes	62,871 43	53,474 59
5. Fees of Court, &c.	27,767 45	36,063 33
6. Post Office	17,265 40	22,032 70
7. Rents of Government Property	13,870 16	17,384 65
8. Interest	10,262 10	12,450 11
9. Miscellaneous	20,472 65	42,696 08
10. Land Sales	—	1,000 00
Total	375,778 95	419,932 01

6. The Customs revenue was unexpectedly increased by large receipts in December, especially through withdrawal of rum from the bonded warehouse in order to avoid payment of a surtax of 5 per cent. which came into operation, under the provisions of Ordinance No. 13 of 1906, from the 1st of January, 1907. Under the head "Taxes," the income tax receipts—now superseded by a revised arrangement of direct taxes, under Ordinance No. 1 of 1907—continued to show a serious falling off.

The item "Fees of Court, &c.," was adventitiously increased by succession duty and registration fees on sundry large sales

of landed property. The increase under the head "Miscellaneous" is partly accounted for by the transfer to revenue of certain deposits for the years 1900-1905 (Rs.11,816) and the remaining increase is due to royalty on guano exported from Crown lands. The high prices for coconut products commencing in the last months of the year brought a renewal of prosperity to the owners of large estates, and the increased demand for labour has improved the prospects of the working classes. But the small proprietors had a very bad year owing to the complete failure of the vanilla crops in consequence of the destruction caused by the droughts in 1904 and 1905. Their prospects, however, appear much brighter for 1907.

Details of Expenditure 1905 *and* 1906.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1905 and 1906:—

Heads of Service.	1905.		1906.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	25	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	12,454	30	12,147	75
3. Governor and Legislature	23,343	69	23,689	69
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	17,839	55	18,411	96
5. Audit Department	5,154	58	5,507	81
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	13,950	04	15,243	73
7. Legal Department	36,981	23	33,913	83
8. Police Department	33,395	03	32,677	25
9. Prison	14,529	97	12,110	36
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	29,790	63	32,862	69
11. Ecclesiastical Department	8,531	92	9,029	17
12. Education Department	27,930	27	25,733	88
13. Printing Department...	3,511	15	2,728	37
14. Post Office Department	9,021	05	11,980	16
15. Transport	1,992	06	2,467	13
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department.	9,023	73	9,996	53
17. Local Board, Central District	18,108	64	14,883	10
18. do. South Mahé	3,867	12	3,495	17
19. do. Praslin	1,980	55	1,545	69
20. do. La Digue	1,773	13	1,330	40
21. Exchange and cost of Remittances... ...	2,443	68	9,475	94
22. Miscellaneous	13,656	41	7,339	10
23. Telegraphs and Steamer Subsidies	44,550	00	43,800	00
24. Public Works Department	12,572	61	9,613	64
25. do. Recurrent	15,130	73	11,501	44
26. do. Extraordinary	17,282	30	4,670	30
Total	393,690	62	370,971	34

8. The policy of retrenchment inaugurated on the occurrence of the severe drought of 1904 has been steadily pursued, and expenditure has now been reduced to the minimum consistent with the necessities of administration and the sufficient maintenance of the spending departments.

The slight increase shown in the administration of the Port Office, Medical Department, and Post Office are due to the necessity for renewal of material. The excess of expenditure at the Botanic Station is due to the importation and acclimatisation of new products, such as Para rubber, introduced as reserves in view of the calamities always possible in all tropical agriculture. The heavy charges for exchange are due to the interest on the overdrafts accumulated with the Crown Agents, partly in financing the loans to planters (Rs.78,800) under Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, and partly due to the impossibility of making remittances during 1904 and 1905 to cover current expenditure in England.

In the course of 1906, the overdraft with the Crown Agents, which had been Rs.220,500 at the beginning of 1906, was reduced to Rs. 22,500.

An excellent spirit of co-operation in the exercise of all possible economies has been shown by both the Civil Service and the unofficial elements.

9. The following table shows the surplus of assets over liabilities from 1900:—

Year.	Amount.
	Rs. cts.
1900	236,513 85
1901	339,762 22
1902	288,323 24
1903	224,910 40
1904	160,007 33
1905	141,509 62
1906	175,432 96

The assets are represented by Rs.126,000 in cash and Rs.218,800 in investments—Rs.140,000 in British and Colonial stock and Rs.78,800 invested locally at 6 per cent. on the security of first mortgage on real estate under the provisions of the Loan to Planters Ordinance No. 4 of 1904. Advances due represent Rs. 10,333; and remittances in transit Rs. 7,000.

The liabilities are represented by Savings Bank and other deposits (Rs.155,000), an overdraft of Rs.22,500 with the Crown Agents and sundry unsettled advances (Rs.9,000).

10. The public debt, which consists of a loan of £20,000 negotiated in 1899, is repayable, with interest at 2½ per cent., in thirty annual instalments of £987 15*s.* 9*d.* (Rs.14,816.25) of which seven have now been paid.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last six years:—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245
1902	861,159	943,819	1,094,268	1,237,405
1903	966,641	1,024,641	825,525	968,325
1904	829,211	905,171	724,187	801,894
1905	789,785	823,452	808,032	848,744
1906	811,366	916,397	794,681	807,781

Imports.

12. The declared value of imports in 1906 was Rs.811,366 exclusive of specie to the value of Rs.105,031. The volume and value of imports generally represent the credit of the previous year. The depression in the purchasing power of the community dates from 1902 when the high prices for vanilla were coming to an end but the credit which accompanied the "boom" lasted through 1903. Trade was slack throughout 1906 in so far as it depended on the earnings of the bulk of the residents; and, were it not for investments in new enterprises, the figures would have been still lower. The importation of specie, however, to an amount unequalled since 1898 represents a portion of the capital which has again commenced to flow into the Colony; this money circulates among the labouring classes and will reflect on the volume and value of the imports as soon as the enterprises on foot should become more thoroughly organised.

13. The imports, excluding specie, when classified according to countries of origin, present the following proportions:—

From the United Kingdom, Rs.257,315, or 32 per cent.

From British Possessions, Rs.386,482, or 47 per cent.

From Foreign Countries, Rs.167,569, or 21 per cent.

These proportions very closely correspond with those of 1905. Of the total, 48 per cent. passed through the Suez Canal.

14. The following comparative table indicates the movements in trade, as regards imports from the United Kingdom, British Possessions, and foreign countries (specie excluded):—

Comparative Table of Imports exclusive of Specie.

—	1905.	1906.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom...	259,702	257,315	—	2,387
India	275,122	304,912	29,790	—
Mauritius and its Dependencies...	73,701	61,546	—	12,155
Aden	13,301	16,268	2,967	—
Zanzibar and East Africa ...	2,427	426	—	2,001
Other British Possessions ...	869	4,030	3,161	—
France	148,949	131,702	—	17,247
Madagascar and Dependencies ...	6,771	10,429	3,658	—
Réunion	3,434	1,636	—	1,798
Germany	4,898	15,006	10,108	—
Other Countries	611	8,056	7,445	—
Total	789,785	811,366	57,129	35,588

British imports are of a very varied character; the most important are cotton goods (Rs.61,451), coal and patent fuel (Rs.44,137), iron ware (Rs.33,542), clothing (Rs.17,700), and caustic soda for soap making (Rs.15,411). From India, rice (Rs.179,163) is the chief item, then cotton goods (Rs.64,026) and wheat flour (Rs.20,602). From Mauritius, sugar (Rs.31,790) and rum (Rs.8,437) are the principal entries; and from Aden, coffee (Rs.12,850). From France, among a great variety of articles, the most prominent are wine and spirits (Rs.32,342), clothing and articles de mode (Rs.26,355), machinery (Rs.15,695), and cotton goods (Rs.9,059). The principal article of German origin is manufactured iron (Rs.5,779).

Exports.

15. The declared value of exports in 1906 was Rs.794,681, exclusive of specie. Although this total shows a slight decrease as compared with the total for 1905 (Rs.808,032), yet on analysis the figures are much more satisfactory. There is a loss of Rs.181,058 in the value of vanilla alone, the crop which from 1896 to 1903 represented more than half the value of the sum total of the exports. The proportion has fallen in 1906 to one-eighth of the whole; but the loss is practically made good by the development of other resources which are calculated to relieve the Colony from its dependence on one single product. In 1906, the relief has come from coprah, guano, and tortoiseshell. When, in the near future, the coconut properties and the guano deposits are more fully developed, and the mangrove-bark industry and rubber plantations reach the stage of yielding a profit, the prosperity of the Colony will rest on a wider and sounder foundation.

16. The most important item consists of the products of the coconut palm—coprah, soap, coconut oil, and coconuts—

declared at Rs.432,474; particulars are recorded in a tabulated statement below.

The second in value is phosphatic guano of which 5,466 tons were exported, declared at Rs.30 per ton, to the value of Rs.163,979. Vanilla stands at kilos. 17,118, valued at Rs.101,818. Tortoiseshell, turtle oil, and calipee amount to Rs.61,072. Other products are represented by Rs.35,338.

It is probable that coconut products and vanilla will show a large increase in quantity and value in 1907.

The deposits of phosphates—guano and phosphate rock—are extensive and the exploitation is now well organised; but owing to the difficulties of transport and the limited supply of labour, it is doubtful whether the exports will exceed 10,000 tons in any one year. The capture of carets or hawksbill turtles (*chelonia imbricata*) in 1906 was unusually large; the productiveness of the fishery varies considerably from year to year, and there is no proof that the supply has been seriously affected in recent years. The harvesting of mangrove bark—represented in 1906 by trial samples declared at Rs.2,402—is an industry capable of very considerable development. There is probably the equivalent of 100,000 tons of bark of the Brughiera, Ceriops, and Rhizophora varieties in the islands. The industry of preparing vacoa bags and mats (entered at Rs.610) is likely to be developed largely for the transport of produce. And other industries, especially Para rubber, desiccated bananas, lemon grass oil, citrate of lime, and salted fish, are capable of expansion. The crops of coffee, cloves, and cacao are mainly absorbed for local consumption.

17. The total volume of coconut exports is, approximately, 2,050 tons. The volume of coprah (900 tons) has trebled since 1905, owing to a rapid increase in value, the bulk of the export going to Marseilles. There is a corresponding decrease in the quantity of oil exported which has fallen to figures (360 tons) which are the lowest of which there is certain record; one-half of the oil exported goes to Madagascar and the rest is sent to Mauritius, Bombay, and neighbouring ports.

The production of soap (360 tons) has continued steadily to expand, the principal markets being Zanzibar and Madagascar, where it has established a strong position in the face of European competition; it is probable, however, that the production will be curtailed as long as the quotations for coprah remain at their present figure. The number of coconuts (exported to Mauritius and Aden) is much reduced owing to the high prices obtained in the local market for manufacture into coprah. The quantity of desiccated coconuts is included in the figures for coprah. There is no industry in the production of coir rope or fibre. Poonac, a by-product of coconut oil, is largely consumed locally for feeding stock, although not exported; and the scarcity, owing to the restricted quantity of oil prepared, is a serious inconvenience to the small farmer.

The following table shows the annual variations in the products of the coconut palm for 12 years. The total crop of nuts in 1906 is estimated at 24 millions:—

Exports of Products of the Coconut Palm.

Year.	Coconut oil		Soap.		Coconuts.		Coprah.		Total value of coconut products
	Hectolitres	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs.
1894	13,939	338,784	12,398	3,480	1,525,532	30,510	—	—	372,744
1895	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	1,632,860	32,647	—	—	409,279
1896	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	1,293,136	26,237	—	—	486,134
1897	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	1,492,475	29,849	—	—	414,627
1898	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	1,695,236	34,094	—	—	327,447
1899	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	983,418	19,667	—	—	442,286
1900	12,044	268,809	159,142	35,778	1,083,302	27,524	—	—	331,911
1901	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	1,071,732	26,228	—	-	205,321
1902	11,326	242,343	173,476	45,990	1,117,960	24,815	5,390	827	313,148
1903	18,504	160,977	234,421	56,851	1,241,026	28,848	30,458	5,884	246,676
1904	9,919	180,045	217,432	56,439	882,044	26,021	267,200	43,744	294,249
1905	11,800	250,070	350,157	101,989	551,135	12,188	296,718	49,704	413,951
1906	4,200	123,942	419,329	129,590	376,340	9,484	899,217	169,458	432,474

18. The vanilla crop of 1906 was the lowest since 1895. The actual exports in the year amount to 17,118 kilos., but this total includes over 7,000 kilos. of the crop of 1905 exported during the earlier months of 1906. Of the harvest in 1906, less than 10,000 kilos. were exported during the year, and local stocks are absolutely depleted. The price in January was Rs.5.42 per kilo—as compared with Rs.8.66 in January, 1905, and Rs.33 in 1900—but prices rapidly improved towards the end of the year when the average quotation of December was Rs.8.30. The mean declared value for the whole year was Rs.5.95. Vanilla is essentially a poor man's crop, as it needs little capital to produce and the cultivation even on the larger estates is worked to a great extent on the moitié system. The failure, therefore, of this crop hits the creole peasantry severely, for they had little compensation in the high price of coconuts. However, the renewed demand for labour on the islands caused the loss to be less severely felt than during the universal depression caused by the droughts in 1904 and 1905.

The crop of 1907 will, granted fair weather, prove satisfactory in quantity, although the quality may be below the average. It is probable that the crop will reach 50,000 kilos. A statement showing the value, quantity, and average price of Seychelles vanilla for the last 12 years is attached:—

Value, Quantity, and Average Price of Seychelles Vanilla for the last Twelve Years.

Year.	Total Value of exports (including specie).	Quantity of vanilla exported.	Declared value of vanilla.	Average price per kilo. of vanilla.
	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs. cts.
1895	736,964	4,553	60,344	13 25
1896	1,569,912	31,227	936,000	29 97
1897	1,503,701	30,691	920,730	30 00
1898	1,381,514	25,177	748,810	29 74
1899	1,897,662	41,835	1,338,720	32 00
1900	1,036,161	17,569	580,877	33 06
1901	1,483,245	71,899	1,108,792	15 42
1902	1,237,405	60,862	642,331	10 55
1903	968,325	59,784	503,994	8 43
1904	801,894	41,072	300,026	7 30
1905	848,744	48,208	282,876	5 87
1906	807,781	17,118	101,818	5 95

19. A tabulated statement is annexed of the remaining exports of some importance; but, of these, the exploitation of guano and phosphate rock is the only commercial interest capable of early development on a large scale.

Guano, rich in phosphates but lacking nitrates, exists in large deposits on many islands in the various archipelagos under this Government. Underlying the guano, the coral substratum has become, in places, saturated with phosphoric acid and is transformed into a tribasic phosphate of lime of commercial value. The valuation for export of guano has hitherto been declared at the Customs at Rs.10 per ton; it has now been entered at Rs.30 which more nearly represents the local value.

Year.	Cacao.		Coffee.		Guano.		Tortoise Shell.		Salt Fish.	
	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Tons.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.
1894 ..	1,650	1,650	—	—	—	—	1,736	52,080	—	—
1895 ..	12,043	9,921	201	241	390	9,650	1,802	74,705	—	—
1896 ..	6,794	4,905	158	158	1,103	22,660	1,701	65,760	—	—
1897 ..	5,714	4,566	627	597	1,105	22,100	1,522	59,341	—	—
1898 ..	8,452	6,762	639	639	491	22,287	1,281	40,992	368	111
1899 ..	7,891	5,049	4,481	2,688	1,940	19,400	973	30,859	19,031	2,286
1900 ..	7,287	6,365	2,565	1,464	3,277	42,159	1,440	35,933	7,139	4,243
1901 ..	5,163	3,051	548	221	5,598	54,463	835	17,099	7,224	2,380
1902 ..	5,966	3,254	1,710	736	7,500	90,234	700	15,426	25,115	5,758
1903 ..	3,824	1,789	820	305	2,044	29,467	920	13,666	14,817	3,820
1904 ..	6,122	3,370	2,620	1,186	5,210	52,130	2,011	33,325	30,465	6,091
1905 ..	3,180	1,634	140	[illegible]	3,680	36,830	1,334	31,607	21,813	5,156
1906 ..	5,824	3,167	2,883	1,425	5,166	163,979	2,754	58,728	16,286	3,173

The harvest of the tortoiseshell fisheries is the largest on record. Cacao and Liberian coffee yield magnificent crops, but the cost of collection, curing, and freight leaves too narrow a margin of profit for their liberal cultivation.

The following articles also figure on the list of exports:—Cocos-de-mer (Rs.4,779), calipee (Rs.3,325), mangrove bark (Rs.2,402), bêche-de-mer (Rs.1,598), and cloves (Rs.240).

The first sample of prepared rubber was sent to England in 1906, a herald of an industry which may hereafter prove of much value to the Colony.

20. Subjoined is a table showing the immediate destination of exports (including specie) and the declared values at the Customs, for the last six years:—

Comparative Table of Exports to Principal Countries, 1901 to 1906.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	537,135	396,953	350,565	169,873	197,602	114,177
France	563,902	294,094	192,900	228,978	202,478	263,712
Mauritius and Réunion.	205,266	267,646	239,249	166,004	184,029	59,936
India and Aden.	78,354	132,510	67,939	131,176	82,278	65,899
African Ports ...	24,990	51,694	68,054	40,701	58,072	78,805
Madagascar ...	29,225	43,396	30,733	29,861	98,334	119,646
Other Countries	44,373	51,112	18,885	35,302	25,951	105,606
Total ...	1,483,245	1,237,405	968,325	801,895	848,744	807,781

Exports to United Kingdom.

21. The decrease in exports to the United Kingdom is due to the short crop of vanilla, 9,605 kilos., declared at Rs.56,064, being cleared for London, as against 22,566 kilos. in 1905, valued at Rs.137,135. London is looked upon as the best market when prices are good, but Paris sales are steadier when demand is dull, this conclusion is based on the fact that there are regular monthly sales in London, where parcels are sometimes put up for forced sales; whereas, in Paris, there is no open market, but the principal buyers, having standing contracts with the wholesale consumers, are ready to buy at a figure which is not subject to market fluctuations.

Of the coconut products, coprah alone to the trifling value of Rs.14,890 has been shipped to London. This is due to the small bulk of the consignments which are sold in Marseilles promptly and at trifling cost for dock and agency charges.

No guano, out of the 5,466 tons shipped, has been consigned to the United Kingdom. Luxuries, such as tortoiseshell (Rs.33,555) and calipee (Rs.3,101), find their market in London.

Exports to British Possessions.

22. To India and Aden is sent coconut oil (Rs.33,419), coprah (Rs.10,588), coconuts (Rs.3,307), and coco-de-mer (Rs.4,364). All the specie remittances (Rs.13,100) go to the same destination. To Mauritius, coconut oil (Rs.25,882) represents more than half of the exports, which have fallen off to less than one-fourth of the total in 1905, owing to the production of coprah which is shipped to Europe, in lieu of coconut oil for which Mauritius was the principal market.

To East African ports, almost the whole is accounted for by the shipment of soap (Rs.72,153) for Zanzibar.

Exports to France and French Possessions.

23. To Marseilles was consigned 771 tons of coprah, valued at Rs.126,367—as compared with 245 tons in 1905, valued at Rs.40,810. Owing to the shortness of the crop, vanilla represents only Rs.44,193, as compared with Rs.136,462 in 1905. A shipment of 1,400 tons of guano to Granville represents Rs.42,000. Tortoiseshell has advanced to the considerable figures of Rs. 25,116. Samples of mangrove bark—58 tons—were declared at Rs.2,041. Of the French Possessions, the trade with Madagascar has assumed considerable importance, Nossi-Bé being the chief port of entry. Coconut oil (Rs.56,749) and soap (Rs.55,354) are the principal items among a large number of trifling value.

24. For other foreign destinations, the only item of importance is guano, of which a cargo of 1,688 tons (Rs.50,640) was shipped to Ghent, and a cargo of 1,675 tons to Hamburg (Rs.50,250).

(B.) MANUFACTURES.

25. Considerable progress has been made in manufactures. Soap boilers have turned out for export nearly one million pounds of soap of an excellent quality, besides supplying the needs of the Colony.

Three factories for desiccation of coconuts have been established during 1906 with new and improved machinery.

A rum distillery is in course of erection; and the distillation of essential oils of lemon grass, cinnamon, and bigarade has been attempted, and subsidiary industries may eventually be established in this connection.

Coconut oil is prepared on every estate; the mills are primitive and wasteful but produce a good article. Vanilla, coffee, cacao, and cloves are cured and prepared for the market on a number of estates.

26. Engineering works, established in 1905, adjoining the long pier, have been enlarged and developed; repairs to sailing ships and engine-room fittings are undertaken; a steam tug is in course of construction, and it is contemplated to instal motor engines in two sailing ships owned in Mahé. An ice factory has been set up in the same connection.

27. The coaling business of the port has advanced greatly in efficiency; recent improvements have led to the handling of 300 to 400 tons in a working day; a maximum quantity of 525 tons was recently placed on board a Dutch man-of-war.

28. The steamship "Endeavour" (124 tons net register) purchased for the service of the islands under the control of the Mahé Syndicate, Limited, was lost during her first voyage on the Providence Banks. She was to be replaced in 1907.

(C.) Fisheries.

29. All the natives of Seychelles are born sailors, and have been known as skilled and daring seamen from the time of the Napoleonic war, when the corsairs of Mahé preyed on the East India Company's shipping, and extended their cruises along the Indian coasts and up the Persian Gulf. Most families on the shore own their own pirogue—as the small fishing boats are called—and inter-island communication is carried on by means of half-decked sailing boats or whale boats. Fish and turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) take the place of meat, and large quantities are consumed fresh. Schooners, of which there are eight locally owned, ranging from 25 to 340 tons, bring salt fish and live turtles from the southern archipelagos. Calipee, from the edible green turtle, was exported to Europe to the value of Rs.3,325, and salt fish, in addition to the large local consumption, is exported in varying quantities; in 1906, the quantity sent to Mauritius and Réunion was valued at Rs.3,173. The Seychelles and Amirantes Banks are eminently suited for fisheries, and the trade in salted and dried fish might—with more enterprise—be considerably extended.

The bêche de mer fisheries are conducted on a small scale; the dried article is exported to China, to the declared value, in 1906, of Rs.1,598. Ordinance No. 12 of 1906 was passed to encourage the fishing industry by relieving it from restrictions which are considered no longer necessary.

Sperm whales are reported to be numerous in deep water, north of the Seychelles Bank, in the neighbourhood of Denis Island. The successful cruise in 1904 of a New England whaler was repeated in 1906; the venture was combined with fishing for the "right whale" off the Crozets, and was reported to have been very profitable. In combination with the fisheries on the Aldabra, Cosmoledo, Providence, and Amirantes Groups, there are established prosperous coconut plantations.

On certain islands mangrove bark is being collected, and phosphate deposits are worked, giving employment to 600 labourers from Mahé.

The fisheries for tortoiseshell obtained from the hawksbill turtle (*Chelonis imbricata*) were, in 1906, very successful; the prices are high, the quantity shipped amounted to $2\frac{3}{4}$ tons, and the value of exports to Europe was declared at Rs.58,728.

The giant land tortoise of the Aldabra Islands (*Testudo elephantina*) is carefully preserved, both at Aldabra and elsewhere; the herd at Government House is in good condition; it numbered fifty adults, and over one hundred young ones are being reared.

(D.) Agriculture and Crown Lands.

30. An admirable report by Mr. Dupont, the Curator of the Botanic Station, is annexed, in which are recorded the year's efforts at advancement in agriculture. Although steady and substantial prosperity in tropical colonies, under present conditions, may not be surely secured without mineral wealth, it cannot be too constantly impressed on colonists that a scientific training is necessary to obtain the best results out of agriculture.

This Colony is blessed with an almost perfect climate, temperate, healthy, and equable, with an ample rainfall and immunity from hurricanes and earthquakes. The soil is variable, and there is much that is not rich, but the materials to improve its constituents—lime, phosphates, and nitrogenous foods—are cheap, abundant, and readily accessible. The system of popular lectures and field day experiments have been continued, and the expert knowledge of Mr. Dupont has been readily placed at the service of those proprietors who are willing to learn modern principles of farming. A valuable impetus was given by the lectures of Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner whose advice, as coming from an outside expert, was received with ready attention.

31. Mr. Dupont records some results from his elaborate experiments in the comparative values of fertilisers for vanilla. He chronicles an increase by 400 acres in the area—say, 9,000 acres in all—under the cultivation of the coconut palm, and recites the great varieties of insect pests to which the droughts of 1904 and 1905 gave a disagreeable impetus.

Laboratory work in the examination of soils, phosphates, and experiments with essential oils have occupied much of the Curator's time; and he points with gratification to the progress made in new supplementary industries—in the preparation of citrate of lime, lemon grass, and cinnamon oils, desiccation of bananas, and the extraction of albumen from the eggs of sea birds.

The exploitation of phosphate guano and of mangrove bark comes as a succour to the labouring classes and should distribute Rs.400,000 or more in wages for a series of years to come. These industries should reach complete working order during 1907. For the future, when the guano deposits approach exhaustion, or should disaster overtake the coconut plantations or the vanilla gardens, the Colony has in reserve for new industries all the varieties of rubber-producing plants (of which an interesting catalogue is given), but most especially Para, of which some 80,000 plants are now growing and

thriving. Other resources include sugar-cane growing and distillation of rum; and it is hoped that, when the obstacles in the way of new industries have been cleared away, success will attend the culture of bananas and the extraction of essential oils, of which lemon grass is at present the most promising, but its results may possibly be exceeded by the utilisation of the forests of wild cinnamon which are now valueless.

A determined attempt is to be made to encourage the salted fish industry and to develop a trade in shell and sponge culture.

32. The returns from Crown lands have reached Rs.17,333, and the departmental expenses amount to Rs. 9,594. It may be said that this is the only department in the public service which has not been stinted during the last three years; that is, the total expenditure has been maintained without reduction, whereas the general expenditure has generally been reduced by one-third since 1903.

Mr. Dupont spent two months in a scientific examination of the Aldabra Group of Islands, on which his instructive report will be issued as a separate pamphlet.

(E.) Shipping.

33. Subjoined is a statement of the total shipping inwards and outwards, 1902-6:—

Year.	—	British.		American.		Dutch.		French.		German.		Italian.		Norwegian.		Portuguese.		Swedish.		Total Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.
		Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	
1902.. ..	Inwards	37	41,249	—	—	—	—	30	51,592	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	237,977
	Outwards	36	39,831	—	—	—	—	29	51,557	15	21,369	1	3,400	4	2,105	—	—	—	—	
1903.. ..	Inwards	38	58,843	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	14	19,450	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	274,645
	Outwards	39	59,694	—	—	—	—	28	58,165	13	18,787	—	—	1	767	—	—	—	—	
1904.. ..	Inwards	40	64,524	1	336	—	—	20	42,643	1	1,856	1	851	1	834	1	1,800	—	—	226,093
	Outwards	37	64,223	1	336	—	—	20	42,643	2	2,513	1	851	1	834	1	1,800	—	—	
1905.. ..	Inwards	35	48,495	—	—	3	8,490	27	59,766	5	9,200	—	—	2	1,984	—	—	1	635	259,946
	Outwards	34	48,210	—	—	3	8,490	27	59,766	4	8,115	—	—	2	1,984	—	—	1	635	
1901.. ..	Inwards	31	57,883	1	364	—	—	27	57,222	4	2,102	—	—	4	3,618	1	1,800	—	—	246,067
	Outwards	30	57,819	1	364	—	—	27	57,222	5	3,187	—	—	3	2,686	1	1,800	—	—	

NOTE.—Sailing ships, 31; steamers, 104.

The above figures include eight British steamers bound from South African ports in ballast which called for orders and, on receipt of instructions, left forthwith for various Indian ports.

34. Four British men-of-war visited Mahé during 1906, and three cruisers flying, respectively, the colours of France, Germany, and Portugal.

35. The mail service is carried out by French steamers of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes which call once a month homeward bound to Marseilles and outward bound to Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius.

Means of Communication among the Islands.

36. The Port Office is an important department in a Colony which consists of 89 islands and groups of islands, several of which are situated over 600 miles from Mahé. The main interest centres in the Seychelles Archipelago, consisting of 45 mountain tops and coral atolls, rising from the Seychelles Bank, an area measuring 150 miles from north to south, and about the same from east to west. In this area the soundings do not exceed 50 fathoms, with an average depth of 1,700 fathoms outside the line of the banks. The islands in this group are served, for administrative purposes, by means of a Government steam launch, the "Alexandra," of 30 tons, built at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, and received in December, 1902. The "Alexandra" made, in 1906, 48 voyages, including a regular fortnightly service to Praslin and La Digue, the islands which, in population and importance, rank next to Mahé. She conveyed 1,119 passengers and a considerable quantity of cargo. During the height of the south-east trades—June to August—when the sea runs high among the islands, it is thought prudent to limit the regular service to one trip a month, passengers preferring to travel by sailing craft during these months. Her earnings amounted to Rs.3,490, nearly covering the cost of her maintenance (Rs.3,650). Between the months from November to March there are often long periods of calms, during which her steam power renders the launch of great public convenience; but when there is sufficient wind, numerous whale boats and cutters ply between the islands. The Governor made use of the launch on five trips of inspection during the year. The service of the steam launch is supplemented by the use of a Government cutter, the "Wave" of 7½ tons, which is used on a monthly service to the lighthouse on Denis Island, an atoll on the northern edge of the banks, 55 miles from Victoria. The lighthouse service, efficiently maintained, is under the control of the Port Officer.

There is, in addition, a fleet of smaller boats employed by the Government in local service for the medical officers, the police, the preventive service, and on quarantine duty.

The Amirantes Archipelago, situated on a bank to the west and south-west of Mahé, the nearest point being 120 miles off, extends north and south some 260 miles, with a maximum breadth of 59 miles. This archipelago consists of 27 islands or atolls, divided into five groups, known as the African Banks, St. Joseph Group, Poivre Island, Alphonse Group, and Providence Group, the last named being within 170 miles of Cape Amber, the most northern point of Madagascar. This archipelago, as well as the Cosmoledo Islands (12 in number, situated 210 miles west of Providence) and the Aldabra Group (of five more islands, 69 miles still further to the west) is served by sailing craft owned in Seychelles.

During 1906 all the groups and islands, except Bird Island, lying to the extreme north and not at present inhabited, were officially inspected by the Visiting Magistrate, under the provisions of the Outlying Islands Ordinance; the important groups were frequently visited. In addition, the Governor visited several islands, and special investigations were carried out by the Curator of the Botanic Station, by the Inspector of Police, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Superintendent of Works.

Most of the outlying islands are highly fertile and grow coconuts and maize luxuriantly; and on several there are valuable deposits of guano and phosphate of lime.

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. Thirteen Ordinances were passed during the year of which the following are the most important.

No. 3.—Provides for the care and treatment of insane persons in Seychelles. It has been the practice to send insane persons to the Government Asylum at Mauritius. This procedure was open to many objections: the removal of patients from their own country had a depressing effect on them and debarred them from the advantage, which arises in certain cases, of enlargement under due supervision for probationary periods. The actual removal was always attended with difficulty, as the masters of all mail steamers refused to carry lunatics, and other opportunities of conveyance were rare, irregular and very expensive. Patients are now lodged in a temporary asylum at Anse Royale, pending the erection of permanent buildings which are in process of construction.

The law itself which was drawn up by the late Chief Justice, is a master-piece of compilation.

No. 7.—The Supplementary Supply Bill for 1905, noteworthy as making provision for the smallest sum (Rs.21,038) for a long series of years.

No. 9.—Fixes, as the standard time for Seychelles, the mean of the sixtieth meridian east of Greenwich. This

law was passed in concert with a similar enactment in Mauritius, and is in keeping with the recommendations of the latest International Conference on the subject.

The new time—four hours in advance of English time—was brought into operation on the 1st of January, 1907.

No. 11.—Provides for the imposing of an Export duty of one rupee per ton on mangrove bark exported from the Colony.

No. 12.—Afforded relief from a number of restrictions which were thought to weigh heavily on the fishing industry.

No. 13.—Imposes a surtax of five per cent. on customs duties on certain imports and of ten per cent. on licences, taking effect from the 1st January, 1907. This law has to be considered in conjunction with Ordinance No. 1 of 1907, which establishes the following direct taxes, viz.: a land tax of 30 cents per acre, a town property tax of ½ per cent. on capital value, a tenants' tax of 4 per cent. on rentals and a capitation tax on all adult males of Rs.3. This new system, with the returns on the surtaxes, is substituted for the machinery provided by Ordinance No. 16 of 1900, a law which was highly unpopular in the community owing to the inquisitorial character of its provisions, especially in regard to the assessment of income tax. The change of system was based on the unanimous recommendations of a large and influential Committee composed mainly of the various unofficial elements, the only condition imposed being that the aggregate revenue provided should be equal to that which was yielded under the obnoxious law. The readiness with which the Committee undertook to provide the administration with an adequate revenue and the unanimity which characterised the proceedings afforded remarkable evidence to the good sense and public spirit of its members.

38. Good progress has been made in the collection and revision of the laws of Seychelles. Volume I. containing the Mauritius laws applicable to Seychelles, and Volume II. containing laws, 1872 to 1898, have already been published; Volume III. which will carry on the collection to, and including, Ordinance No. 1 of 1907, was issued in March 1907.

IV.—EDUCATION.

39. The total number of children receiving instruction in 1906 in schools subject to Government inspection or control was 2,364, representing 11·5 per cent. of the population.

Higher education is represented by the Victoria School—a Government Institution on an undenominational basis (103 boys); St. Louis College, for boys, conducted by the Marist Brothers (114); and St. Joseph Convent, for girls, under the control of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny (115). A

Seychelles centre has been established for the Cambridge Local Examinations, on the result of which two scholarships may be awarded yearly of Rs.600 for four years. An amended Scholarships Ordinance enables the Board of Education to send the holder of a scholarship to a technical college, or to cause him to be apprenticed to any approved occupation, or to allow him to continue his study at the Victoria School, Seychelles, at the Royal College, Mauritius, or at any approved school or college elsewhere in British Possessions. By a new regulation framed with the view of encouraging the local schools, four exhibitions may be awarded annually at the Victoria School to pupils, under the age of thirteen years, of any primary school in Seychelles. There are fourteen primary schools under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church, and four schools belonging to the Church of England.

The Government grant-in-aid to the denominational schools was fixed at Rs. 10,000.

40. The direction of the educational policy of the Colony is under the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and his Executive Council, advised by an Education Committee, composed of the Chief Justice as Chairman, four members nominated by the Governor (of whom two are officials and two unofficials), two persons nominated by the Roman Catholic Bishop, and one by the Civil Chaplin (of the Church of England), with the Inspector of Schools as Secretary.

The standard of knowledge acquired by the pupils is not high when measured by what is now expected in most countries. The peasant children and the children of African origin are not naturally bright, and labour under the disadvantage of knowing only a creole patois, which is too restricted and rude to be a medium of learning. As far as possible, English is now the sole medium through which teaching is imparted, but its acquisition is that of a foreign language. The same difficulty would apply in almost as marked a degree to the use of French as a medium. But little assistance is received from home surroundings, as the patois is, in the majority of the houses, the sole language used. There is, however, a growing desire on the part of parents to obtain for their children the advantage of a fair knowledge of English. A popular and useful institution is an exhibition of school work of all kinds, held annually in December.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

41. The Victoria Hospital is the only general hospital in Seychelles. The excellent system of roads carried out by my predecessor renders it unnecessary to establish a similar institution in South Mahé. A cottage hospital in Praslin, to serve the group of islands administered from that centre, would be a public benefit, and the project will be kept in view until

such time as the resources of the Colony are in such an improved condition as to warrant the expenditure.

The Victoria Hospital is supplemented by the establishment of six outdoor dispensaries, namely, one at Victoria, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer; two at Anse Royale and Anse Boileau respectively, serving the needs of South Mahé, under the direction of the Assistant Medical Officer for that division; and three under the Assistant Medical Officer for the Praslin District, namely, two on the Island of Praslin, at Baie St. Anne, and Grand Anse, and one on the adjacent island of La Digue.

42. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital for the last five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1902 ...	176	43	23	14	10	266
1903 ...	172	52	8	28	9	269
1904 ...	210	38	13	20	18	299
1905 ...	241	45	20	14	14	334
1906 ...	192	52	8	22	10	284

The hospital is central and well situated. The wards are airy and well constructed, and the water supply is pure and unlimited. There is a commodious dispensary adjacent, and quarters are provided for the Chief Medical Officer and for the three nursing sisters who belong to the Roman Catholic Society of St. Joseph de Cluny.

Dispensaries.

43. The number of persons who attended for treatment at the outdoor dispensaries has risen to 4,842, as compared with 4,304 in 1905, 3,301 in 1904, 2,709 in 1903, and 2,340 in 1902. The vast increase has been due to the poverty caused by the droughts in 1904 and 1905, and the want of the little ready money which every peasant used to possess from the cultivation of a few vanilla vines. As usual the number of female attending the dispensaries (3,600) greatly exceed the number of men (1,242). The fullest confidence is felt in the ministrations of five doctors with British qualifications.

Principal Disease.

44. The death-rate rose to 17·28 per milie in 1906, as compared with 14·98 in 1905. The average for the eight years previous was 16·91. The rise is due to an epidemic of whooping cough during the first quarter which accounted for 65 deaths, all among young children. Dysentery and diarrhœa cases were common in the first quarter and again in the last quarter, having almost disappeared during the cooler months when the

South East trades blew steadily. Eleven cases of beri-beri have been under treatment involving three deaths; they were all traceable to the outlying islands; seven of the cases were brought from Marie Louise Island in the Amirantes Archipelago. The Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé notes an increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis in his district. Influenza—or perhaps it may be dengue fever—has been prevalent, but no deaths are attributable to this malady.

The supply of vaccine received from Europe by the monthly mails is of good quality and gives excellent results, the successful cases being well over 90 per cent. Vaccination of infants is obligatory.

Leper Asylum.

45. There are twelve lepers in the home at Round Island. The Medical Officer in charge is of opinion that leprosy is not on the increase, but his experience goes to show that there are families in which there is susceptibility towards this malady. Segregation is not compulsory; it is a matter for grave reflection whether it would not be wise to attempt to limit the number of afflicted persons who are permitted to remain under the care of their relations. The Home on Round Island, in the Baie St. Anne, within ready access from the house of the Assistant Medical Officer of Praslin, is well adapted for the treatment of cases, and the general tone among the patients is more cheerful than is usually the case elsewhere.

Pauper Camp.

46. The number of paupers maintained by the Government at the close of the year was thirteen. These patients represent the old and destitute, principally liberated slaves. The camp is roomy, healthily placed, and well kept.

Lunatic Asylum.

47. The insane were still sent during part of 1906 from Seychelles for care and treatment at the Government Asylum of Mauritius; where the number of Seychelles patients has gradually fallen to a total of eight. The disadvantages of long transfer by sea in sailing vessels—for the regular mail steamers refuse insane patients—are obvious, and the distance causes difficulties attending discharge of patients on probation. Moreover, the charge for maintenance is high, the cost of transport is usually excessive, and months have at times passed before an opportunity has occurred for the transfer of a patient to Mauritius. It has now been resolved to establish an asylum at Anse Royale under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé, who has made a special study of mental diseases. An Ordinance has been passed (No. 3, of 1906) for the care and treatment of lunatics; plans have been approved for the erection of permanent buildings; a suitable site has been acquired, and progress was made, under the Estimates for 1906, by the erection of the boundary wall and the adaptation of existing buildings for the temporary care of a few insane persons.

Provision is made in the Estimates for 1907 for the erection of the block buildings for male patients. At the close of 1906 three persons were under treatment in temporary quarters.

Savings Bank.

48. The Government Savings Bank consists of the central office in Victoria, opened in 1894, with branches at Baie St. Anne, in Praslin, at La Digue, and at Anse Royale, in South Mahé. There was substantial increase in the total deposits, due to considerable sums being lodged awaiting investment. The average account per head is Rs.417.

The following table gives the savings bank statistics for the last six years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs.
1901 ...	243	52	30	58,797.08
1902 ...	279	44	8	52,663.92
1903 ...	291	35	23	58,067.07
1904 ...	302	34	23	58,462.53
1905 ...	307	39	34	67,852.10
1906 ...	315	23	15	131,546.43

The reserve funds, invested in Colonial stock, represent, at the quotations of the 31st December, 1906, the sum of Rs.64,847·38.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Law Courts.

49. The following table shows the volume of judicial work transacted in the five years, 1902-1906:—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1902 ...	1,098	1,083	1,346	1,097	235	100	73
1903 ...	1,108	1,099	1,293	1,071	271	94	64
1904 ...	1,083	1,077	1,278	808	232	24	80
1905 ...	1,032	1,024	1,487	1,262	181*	16	80
1906 ...	1,195	1,190	1,558	1,419	203†	17	58

* In addition to 514 cases referred to Court for non-payment of Local Rate.

† In addition to 203 cases referred to Court for non-payment of Local Rate.

50. The number of cases of crime and misdemeanour dealt with in the Supreme Court of Seychelles was 469; 574 persons were charged, 528 convicted, 42 acquitted and four were awaiting trial at the end of the year. The bulk of the convictions (including 258 for contraventions under specific ordinances—especially the Licensing Law—and 166 for petty larcenies), were for offences of no serious gravity. The number of house breaking cases fell from 14 to 7. The increase in the number of cases and of convictions is probably due to the increased efficiency of the police at headquarters.

The number of cases dealt with in the Police Court was 481; 629 persons were charged and 612 convicted, mostly for drunkenness or disturbance. The Justice of the Peace for South Mahé had before him 164 accused persons, of whom 130 were convicted; the Justice of the Peace for Praslin and La Digue tried 150 persons and convicted 118. The Visiting Magistrates for the outlying islands dealt with seven cases, all of which resulted in convictions; but the offences were of a trifling character. One death occurred on Eagle Island under circumstances which called for a special enquiry, but after an exhaustive examination of the witnesses and of the locality, the Magistrate and the Medical Officer were satisfied that the death was due to suicide. The population as a whole is singularly law-abiding and there is a marked absence of the litigious element which bulks so largely in the statistics of India and the dependencies of the further East. There is a diminution in drunkenness, due probably almost solely to want of means; but whatever its cause, the improvement is most marked, and may become permanent even when the former prosperity is renewed. The illicit preparation of "bacca," the fermented juice of the sugar cane, is still prevalent, and the custom of having a "festin" in order to clear an extent of land for cultivation, to which all the labourers in the neighbourhood are invited and rewarded by a free distribution of fermented "bacca," leads to drunkenness and disorder.

Police Force.

51. The authorised strength of the police force remained throughout the year at 59, of all ranks. In addition one corporal and eight constables were in charge of the political prisoners, their services being paid for by the Government of the Gold Coast and the Uganda Protectorate. The cost of the regular police has been gradually reduced from Rs.40,557 in 1903, and Rs.37,501 in 1904, and Rs.33,395 in 1905, to Rs.32,676 in 1906. The police prosecuted in 1,072 cases, involving 1,373 persons of whom 1,275 were convicted. The following table shows the comparative results for five years:—

Comparative Results for Five Years.

Year.	No. of cases.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.	Declared value of property lost.	Value of property recovered.	Fines inflicted.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1902 ...	943	1,157	1,014	828	802	11,146
1903 ...	869	1,079	987	2,906	2,091	9,303
1904 .	797	961	836	4,385	503	8,025
1905 ...	1,023	1,295	1,163	1,191	969	9,858
1906 ...	1,072	1,373	1,275	1,294	699	8,880

52. Seven cases of burglary were reported to the police, and convictions followed in all cases. The prevalence of prædial theft has been checked, the number of unemployed labourers having decreased owing to the demand for men on the outlying islands. The police force has greatly improved in efficiency and morale during the past two years.

Prison.

53. The number of persons committed to prison during 1906 amounted to 571 men and 120 women, a decrease of 31 as compared with the figures for 1905; but of this total 369 were under remand for safe custody or were sentenced to simple imprisonment in default of payment of fines imposed by the Courts. The number actually sentenced to undergo penal imprisonment was 322, viz., 247 men and 75 women, or 5 more than in 1905. The daily average of prisoners was 70, of whom 4 were women. Twenty persons, all males, were admitted to the prison infirmary, but there were no deaths, and the general health was extraordinarily good. There were no cases of corporal punishment.

The continued increase in the number of prisoners is due, not to an increase of crime—except in the matter of petty larcenies—but to widespread poverty and unwillingness to pay the small fines imposed by the Courts. Given a renewal of prosperity, the prison population will fall rapidly.

The services of prisoners have been organised for the execution of public works in the vicinity of Victoria; and many useful works have been carried out by convict labour, at the minimum of cost, to a value of some Rs.10,000.

The printing department is now carried on within the precincts of the prison, with a marked improvement in the quantity and quality of the work turned out, and an economy of 35 per cent. in the expenditure.

The prison is now on a level with modern requirements.

The cost of the Prison Department in 1906 was Rs.12,110. The cost in 1905 was Rs.15,018.

The subjoined table shows the statistics for the past five years:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in the prison.
1902...	384	40
1903...	450	45
1904...	467	50
1905...	660	75
1906...	691	70

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

54. The population on the 31st December, 1906, was estimated at 20,976. viz., 10,703 males and 10,273 females. The births numbered 719—34·62 per mille—and the deaths 359—17·28 per mille The birth rate is normal, but the death rate is unusually high, owing to an epidemic of whooping cough in the first quarter, which accounted for the deaths of 65 children of tender years. Consequently, the mortality under five years of age rose to 39 per cent. of the whole.

The number of still births has fallen substantially to 38, which is the most satisfactory return yet recorded. The proportion of illegitimate births is 27·2 per cent.

There were 100 marriages, a falling off in number, due probably to the poverty of the labouring classes.

The departures (446) from the Colony considerably exceeded the arrivals (295); hence the gain in total number during the year is only 209.

The density of the population is 134·46 per square mile.

Climate.

55. The following table gives the rainfall and the maximum and minimum shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	Maximum Shade Temperature.	Minimum Shade Temperature.	Number of Wet Days.
1902...	87·81	F. 88·0°	F. 68·0°	147
1903...	132·96	88·5	68·0	171
1904...	106·74	87·2	68·2	160
1905...	88·91	88·0	71·0	147
1906...	96·12	88·7	70·6	194

The average daily maximum was 82·8°, and the minimum 76·7°. The mean temperature was 79·35°, slightly higher than the average of the eight years previous, viz., 79·04°.

The average rainfall for the last fifteen years has been 100·8 inches; the fall in 1906 was slightly below the average, but it was evenly and satisfactorily distributed throughout the year, and there was no recurrence of a period of drought, such as wrought such havoc in the plantations in 1904 and 1905.

The winds were very light during the first five months of the year, and the S.E. trades were not thoroughly established until June, dying away in the middle of November. The maximum force of wind occurred on August 28th and 29th, when its velocity measured 21·2 and 20·7 miles per hour.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

56. The volume of correspondence, which was checked in 1904 by the suspension of the mail service, due to strikes at the port of Marseilles, has not maintained the very marked advance made in 1905. The only noticeable increase occurs in the despatch of pictorial post cards.

Letters, Papers, and Parcels.

Year	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
External—					
Letters received	68,028	71,240	67,000	78,000	75,200
Letters sent	53,768	59,700	48,000	58,000	48,000
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., received.	86,684	86,900	85,900	120,500	118,300
Newspapers, post-cards, book packets, samples, &c., sent.	7,404	6,620	7,480	10,960	17,820
Parcels received	1,119	932	1,124	1,166	1,045
Parcels sent	856	656	592	725	376
Totals	219,451	229,048	210,096	269,351	260,731
Internal—					
Letters and newspapers received and sent.	43,463	46,624	47,853	51,600	45,400

57. The mail service is performed by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes. There is no formal contract, but steamers leaving Marseilles on the 25th of each month call at Mahé on the outward voyage to Madagascar, Réunion and Mauritius about the 10th of each month. Return steamers call about the 8th of each month, arriving in Marseilles about the

25th. This arrangement of dates precludes the sending of a reply to a letter for nearly a month after its receipt, either in Seychelles or in the United Kingdom.

For this service the company receives a subsidy of francs 2,000 for each call, and is entitled to exemption from all harbour dues and from local rates. The cost of conveyance of mails beyond the Colony in 1906 was Rs.30,141.

Since December, 1906, the General Post Office has made up a mail to leave Marseilles on the 10th of each month by Messageries Maritimes steamers on that branch of their Indian Ocean route, which calls at Zanzibar and Diego Suarez, and from the latter port the bags are transferred to the homeward-bound mail steamer. The passage of mails by this route occupies 30 days from London, as compared with 17 days by the direct route.

His Majesty's ships of war are always prepared to carry mails; and opportunities occur each month for the despatch of the supplementary mails by steamers calling at the port of Victoria.

58. There is no island service of telegraph, but a cable station is established at Mahé by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, on the line to Australia. The volume of business actually transacted at Seychelles is as follows:—

Year ending 31st March	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Number of cablegrams received and sent.	2,276	2,417	2,527	2,737	3,162

This Government pays to the company an annual subsidy of Rs.15,000 (£1,000) towards the maintenance of a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, under an agreement to be in force for twenty years and expiring in 1913, entered into between the Imperial Government and the company, the total subsidy amounting to £28,000 per annum.

59. The following table shows the business transacted in post office money orders:—

Money Orders (including British Postal Orders).

Year	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
External—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	58,587	60,412	53,323	75,229	55,419
Money Orders paid ...	19,609	16,596	10,097	10,144	14,368
Totals	78,196	77,008	63,420	85,373	69,787
Internal—					
Money Orders issued and paid.	1,258	3,889	6,426	7,370	5,813

Of the remittances through the Post Office, 70 per cent. goes to India and 17 per cent. to the United Kingdom. The remittances through the Post Office to India represent for the most part savings of Indian settlers. These figures should be taken with the amount remitted in insured letters (Rs.30,586) and specie exported (Rs.13,100), giving a total of Rs.97,291, which ought to be represented by the export of goods, were not the exchange of produce hampered by high freights and want of direct communication with India. The Government charges a commission of 3 per cent. on money orders issued, but this high charge barely covers the cost of remittances to meet the adverse account with the General Post Office.

60. Departmental receipts vary very greatly according to the orders of stamp dealers. A new edition in 1903 and the necessity of making certain surcharges greatly swelled the receipts; prolonged strikes in Mauritius curtailed them in 1904.

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Local receipts	35,183	12,743	17,265	22,033
Local expenditure	14,064	10,095	8,619	10,384

Economies in administration have led to considerable savings in the last three years. The cost of new revenue stamp dies (Rs.3,352) is included in the figures of expenditure for 1906.

IX.—GENERAL.

61. The year 1906 was in itself a period of extreme penury and privation, the outcome of the disastrous seasons of 1904 and 1905 following on a period of agricultural sloth and careless extravagance. But there were abundant signs of a revival of agriculture and of trade on sound lines. The actual achievements may be headed by the balancing of the revenue and expenditure; the cost of administration has been reduced to meet the needs of the times, and the year closes with a substantial surplus. Coconut plantations have been improved and extended, the preparation of copra has been everywhere improved, and it is generally realised that the coconut industries must form the staple agricultural resource for the present and future. The exploitation of guano and phosphate deposits has been undertaken with a sufficiency of capital; it is organised on a business basis, but is capable of further substantial improvements, especially by way of local preparation of high-grade phosphates, and the deposits, properly developed, should be a source of wealth for a long term of years. Inevitable set-backs have occurred, and have been or can be surmounted.

The harvesting of mangrove bark is an industry which has commenced and may lead to a substantial trade. It will at all events give employment to a large number of labourers. It

is estimated that 100,000 tons are in sight, viz., 15,000 tons of Rhizophora, of which samples have been tested to yield 44 per cent. of tannic acid, 60,000 tons of Brughiera, and 25,000 tons of Ceriops.

As supplementary industries to the foregoing, there is always vanilla, of which there will be occasionally heavy crops; desiccation of bananas and various starchy products; distillation of essential oils, notably lemon grass and cinnamon; preparation of citrate of lime from the prolific crops of the bigarade and other citrus plants. In reserve is the rubber industry, which is dependent on the results of the cultivation mainly of Hevea, supplemented by a collection of other rubber-producing plants (Ceara, Lagos, Assam, and Panama) and the Madagascar creepers (Lombiro and Vahea). Finally, a rum distillery will be in working order before the close of 1907.

Other achievements include the establishment of thriving engineering works, and the reorganisation of the system of grants to aided schools, which may lead to improved elementary education, and the establishment of the Victoria School as an efficient institution for the provision of secondary education.

62. The Colony's most pressing needs are: (1) cheap and frequent opportunities for sending freight to the European markets; (2) the application of steam power for the service of the ships which ply to and from the outlying islands; (3) capital to develop rubber plantations and skill to prepare the product; (4) English education and a desire to learn, to be fostered by means of public libraries and reading rooms; (5) water works for the service of the town of Victoria and as a safeguard against the ever-imminent danger of fire (6) the development of accommodation in the harbour and wharves for increased traffic, and lights for the guidance of shipping; (7) the completion of the local lunatic asylum; and (8) the modification of the somewhat antiquated local laws to meet modern commercial requirements.

63. The Colony gratefully acknowledge the advantage rendered to the community by Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner, the leader of the Percy Sladen Deep Sea Exploration Expedition, in making known before the British Association and the Royal Geographical Society the interest and resources of the archipelago, and by Professor Wyndham Dunstan, Director of the Imperial Institute, for placing the community in touch with English trading interest, to their mutual benefit.

64. Mr. V. L. Boullé, Registrar of the Supreme Court and Acting Crown Prosecutor to the Government, retired on pension in September, 1906.

Mr. R. S. de Vere assumed duties as Crown Prosecutor in December.

W. E. Davidson,
Governor.

24th March, 1907.

ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF THE BOTANIC STATION VICTORIA, FOR THE YEAR 1906.

General Remarks.

The distribution of rain during 1906 has been favourable to the flowering of vanilla and to plants in general (mangoes, &c.). The effects of the drought experienced in 1904 and 1905 have disappeared, but having regard to the reduction in the extent of the vanilla plantations owing to the fall in the price of that article, the crop for 1907 will probably not exceed 49 tons. At the beginning of 1906 one pound of vanilla was worth in Seychelles Rs. 2.50, and it was in December worth twice as much owing to the shortage in the crops of Réunion, Madagascar, and Comoros—the crop of 1906 did not exceed 20,000 lb.

2. A smart rise took place in the sale price of the coconut products, and the position of the planter at the end of 1906 was much better than it has been for the last three years. An increase in the production of coconuts is anticipated for 1907. The extension and improvement of all plantations are more marked every year. During the current year 400 acres of new ground were planted. The crop for 1906 was an average crop, because the trees although much better looked after, had suffered from two years of drought and beetle disease (*Melitomma insulare*) and will take some time to recover.

3. The drought which was so prejudicial to the palms had also weakened the vanilla vines to a great extent and it was curious to follow this year the flowering of vanilla during the months of October, November and December. As soon as the first flowers appeared in September they developed normally but a great number of these having produced pods, those which came out in November and December on the same vines failed on a great scale to develop normally. The vines could not support the migration of the food elements towards the pods. Most of them shrivelled up and many bunches of flowers entirely failed to develop. It has been noticed that only those vines which were planted in good soil were strong enough to stand the production of a heavy crop, and, for this reason, much profit would be derived from a better general treatment of the vines when the climatic conditions are favourable to the flowering.

4. Another effect of the drought was noticed in the abnormal number of scale insects which invade nearly all crops in Seychelles. I am indebted to Mr. E. E. Green of Peradeniya for the identification of the following species, viz. :—

Aspidiotus	...	...	...	...	(Chrysomphalus) n.sp. on Rose.
„	...	...	...	...	Lataniæ, Lign-Vitis and Ficus indica.
„	...	...	...	...	Camelliæ, Lign-Indigo.
Mytilaspis	...	...	...	...	Citricola, Pack-Lime and Shaddock.
„	...	...	...	...	Auriculata, n. sp. Croton.
Chionaspis	...	...	...	...	Dilatata, Green-Coconut.

Hemichionaspis	Minor, Mask-Hibiscus, Cotton.
"	Aspidistræ, Lign—Heliconia.
Diaspis	Pentagona, Targ—Papaw and Pigeon pea.
Lecanium	Longulum, Dougl. Anona Squamosa.
"	Frontade, Green, Casuarina.
"	Nigrum ; Nietn—Hibiscus.
"	Hespiridum, L. Cassia Siamea.
Pulvinaria	Antigoni—sp : Antigonon.
Dactylopius	Virgatus—CK 11. Asparagus.
Asterolecanium epidendri, Bouché ...	Ficus indica, Ramie.
Icerya Seychellarum, Westu ...	Pithecolobinum, Ramie, Casuarina, Bixa, Pomegranate and Wormia ferruginea.

In dry years these scale insects are very prejudicial to those plants which are placed in very exposed situations. The plants which grow in well manured soils or soils protected from evaporation by green manures suffer much less. I have obtained very good results by spraying the trees with soap and petroleum emulsions.

½ lb. Seychelles soap ... } 2 gallons of water.
½ litre of petroleum ... }

but the spraying has to be done very often as the insects' commensals (*i.e.* the ant) very soon introduces a new collection of insects into those fields where they have previously been destroyed. The ants should therefore also be destroyed by pouring hot water or steam into their nests, but at the Botanic Station I am unable to check satisfactorily the distribution of ants owing to the grounds being encroached upon by a few fields belonging to a neighbouring estate. The prejudice caused by a drought has far reaching effects in this distribution of insects and the latter have had good ground for propagation in Seychelles since the country was deforested.

Moisture in the air and in the ground affords visibly the greatest protection against the havoc caused by insects.

5. Measures are being taken gradually to replant with forest trees the grounds which have been sterilised by cassava planting, but this re-afforestation is going on at a very slow rate. It was started with some energy three years ago, but owing to the fall in the price of vanilla, the price of timber as well as that of all articles fell considerably and many planters decided for this reason to stop planting timber trees. The position of the colony having now improved, the price for timber has risen and the consequence is that planters decide at present to go in for tree planting again. In the tropics this change of mind is very characteristic, but it goes far to neutralise agricultural improvements. Outside the sale of timber, forest reserves are of primary importance in a colony which is exposed to periods of drought. I shall not be surprised if one day Seychelles is bound to import timber, and I wish, if possible, to guard against that absence of method in agricultural pursuits which is most distressing.

6. An improvement in the financial position of Seychelles will be obtained from the guano exportation which may be put down as reaching a minimum of 10,000 tons a year, as soon as the Mahé Syndicate has completed its preliminary installations. It is calculated that Rs. 20 is spent in the Colony for the extraction of each ton of guano, thus causing the total profit accruing to the Colony to amount to Rs. 200,000 per annum for many years to come. This profit annexed to that which it is expected will be derived from the exportation of the 100,000 tons of mangrove bark discovered at Aldabra will it is hoped, place the Colony in a position to go in slowly for new industries and for the general improvement of its agriculture.

7. Expenditure, Receipts, Sale of Plants, &c.

The expenditure for the year was :—

Botanic Station and Crown Lands... ...	Rs.	9,593.90
The rents of Crown Lands realised ...	„	16,940.80
The produce from Crown Lands, besides guano, amounted to	„	392.59
The receipts from sale of plants produced	„	1,920.20

The principal plants sold were :—Coconuts, cola, citronella, lemon grass, Para rubber fruit trees, Ilang-Ilang, rubber creeper (Crypstostegia and Madagascar Landolphias) and ornamental plants.

8. Meteorological Observations.

Month.		Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Rainfall.	No. of Rainy Days.
January ...	1905	83·42	77·41	87·51	74·42	18·41	16
	1906	82·3	74·0	87·6	73·3	20·37	18
February ...	1905	82·71	76·35	87·80	75·17	10·60	10
	1906	85·9	79·9	91·1	73·4	9·0	8
March ...	1905	86·62	78·30	91·32	75·92	2·37	7
	1906	85·9	79·4	9[illegible]·2	75·5	14·97	22
April ...	1905	83·50	74·00	91·82	75·15	4·63	8
	1906	84·2	78·6	89·1	74·9	14·33	23
May... ...	1905	84·88	77·46	89·43	75·05	9·36	14
	1906	84·7	79·3	86·0	75·4	5·49	15
June ...	1905	81·85	75·21	86·20	74·75	1·24	12
	1906	81·6	76·4	83·05	74·5	4·88	23
July ...	1905	82·08	74·39	86·30	73·6	0·58	9
	1906	80·0	74·2	84·3	73·3	3·22	18
August ...	1905	80·94	74·44	84·68	73·61	6·50	14
	1906	80·1	73·9	84·3	76·4	0·66	11
September	1905	82·55	75·32	86·50	73·86	11·10	14
	1906	81·2	72·0	84·5	77·3	1·39	3
October ...	1905	85·70	76·75	88·85	74·5	0·22	2
	1906	82·2	73·7	88·4	74·0	4·20	4
November ...	1905	85·60	78·02	90·44	77·12	4·65	10
	1906	82·3	75·3	86·3	72·7	8·40	11
December ...	1905	82·80	76·20	88·18	73·46	28·19	28
	1906	83·1	74·6	86·3	70·2	14·83	15
Total ...	1905	83·5	76·1	88·3	74·7	97·6	154
	1906	82·8	75·9	86·8	74·2	101·34	161

Laboratory.

9. The following analyses were made during the year :—

Bacca (fermented cane juice)	2
Citrate of lime	4
Rum	2
Guano	8
Soil	[illegible]
Water	4
Suspected rice	1

The demand for guano analysis has decreased since the arrival in the colony of the chemist who acts here for the "Mahé Syndicate Limited" which deals with practically all the guano existing in the outlying islands.

The soils examined were received from Frigate Island; and, although they were collected on the same plateau, they show a striking difference in their chemical composition.

—	No. 1.	No. 2.
Sulphuric acid, per cent.	0·238	0·219
Phosphoric acid, per cent.	15·280	12·440
Lime	1·460	0·320
Magnesia	traces.	traces.
Potash	0·022	0·011
Iron oxide and Alumina	11·500	14·300
Nitrogen	0·152	0·540

These soils were also found to contain 55 per cent. of very fine sand with 30 per cent. of moisture which go to show that they are a little too stiff for coconut trees. Their deficiency in potash has also to be made up for the improvement of the palms. All the other elements are superabundant and good results can be expected from the proper treatment of such soils, which are formed principally by the accumulation of guano and alluvial deposits washed down from the hills.

Experiment Plots.

10. The Vanilla manuring experiments were continued in 1906 and by the end of the year the following results were obtained :—

No.	1	Kainit and nitrogen	14 pods per vine.
„	2	Coral and guano	6 „ „
„	3	Coral	no pods.
„	4	Kainit, coral and guano	16 „
„	5	Kainit	none.
„	6	Coral and nitrogen	15.
„	7	Kainit, coral and guano	8 pods.
„	E 8	Kainit, coral, guano, nitrogen ...	16 „
„	9	Kainit, coral, guano, nitrogen ...	17 „
„	E 10	Kainit, coral and guano	11 „
„	11	Kainit and guano...	22 „
„	E 12	Nitrogen	5 „
„	13	Guano and nitrogen	3 „
„	14	Guano and kainit	21 „
„	15	Guano	23 „
„	16	No manure	10 „
„	E 17	No manure	6 „ (weak vines)
„	E 18	Guano	10.
„	E 19	Guano and kainit...	21.

The vines have flowered for the first time in November and December or 25 months after planting. They are receiving the same treatment this year and deductions cannot be made before the end of next year at least, before which time it will not be possible to ascertain the effect of the manure on the vines which are weakened by one or several crops. So far as these experiments go, there are, however, several points which can be brought forward.

(1) The plots in which Vanilla is grown in ordinary soil (E) have given poor results as compared to those in which the orchid is planted in fern roots.

(2) The effect of nitrogen on the crop is not well marked after one year, although the vines treated with nitrate of soda are those which have made the most vigorous growth.

(3) Of all simple measures employed up to this date the effect of phosphatic guano is more marked than that of others.

Distribution of Information on Agricultural Matters.

11. I was asked during the year to visit several estates in Mahé and Praslin, where the coconut disease was newly found to be prevailing. It seems that the coconut trees which grow in the moist spots are those which suffer more severely. A meeting was also held in August at St. Anne Island where four Ceara rubber trees were tapped in the presence of about 40 planters and the processes of coagulating this kind of rubber explained. These trees, which are six inches diameter at three feet from the ground, are the only ones in Seychelles which are found old enough to be tapped, but this small number prevented any investigation being made regarding their yield. Ceara trees are well known to give very variable yields and out of the four trees at St. Anne, one was found to be "dumb."

12. In the same month I was directed by His Excellency the Govenor to visit the Aldabra Group of Islands and this has occupied my time until the end of the year. An exhaustive report on these islands is being printed as a separate pamphlet.

Condition of the Botanic Gardens.

13. The following striking plants flowered for the first time :—

1. Palm oil (Elœis Guineensis) introduced from Mauritius, flowered four years after planting. This palm is well adapted to the so called marshes of Seychelles.
2. Water lilies in the pond—A. Nymphosea Alba. B. N. Rosea, C.N. dentata ; seeds from Cannel and Sons, presented by Mr. B. E. Jollands.
3. Bignonia regalis introduced from Ceylon.
4. Beaumontia grandifolia, introduced from Mauritius.
5. Jacaranda mimosoefolia, introduced from Penang.
6. Ixora macrothyrsa, introduced from Penang.

I have also to record the regular fruiting of :—

1. Allamandas.
2. Frangipan (Plumerias) and the easy growing of Cassava (Manihot Utilissima) from seeds.

It seems that the climate of Seychelles is much more favourable than that of Mauritius to the flowering and regular fruiting of a certain number of plants. The proximity of the sea and of the mountains at the same time probably go far to improve the physiological conditions of these plants and of plants in general. A certain advantage might be derived from these climatic circumstances for seed selection and plant breeding for the benefit of those bigger Colonies in the neighbourhood which are engaged in scientific researches of this nature.

Notes on Economic Plants.

14. The production of coconuts for the last three years amounts to

—	1904.	1905.	1906.
Nuts exported	882,044	551,135	381,954
Nuts converted into oil	11,096,000	9,915,400	7,762,080
" " " coprah	1,781,333	2,077,019	5,655,860
" " " soap	1.590,000	2,451,099	1,243,571
" consumed locally	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
	19,349,377	18,994,653	19,043,465

The steady increase in the exportation of coprah and the higher value of this article on the European market have caused a great local demand for

coconuts which were fetching Rs. 3 a hundred at the end of the year. This rise in the price of the staple product is equivalent to 50 per cent., the price at the beginning of 1906 having been only Rs. 2 a hundred. A proportionate rise in the price of oil has followed, but soap manufacturers cannot afford to pay a higher price than Rs. 3 a velt (local measure of 10 bottles). The market price of oil is, however, regulated by the Indian and Mauritius markets, where the price per velt was Rs. 3.50 at the end of the year. The exportation of oil to Mauritius cost at least 50 cents. per velt. It is likely that the present prices cannot be increased and that the soap manufacturers will not be more handicapped, because on our principal market (Mauritius) the Indian population have the choice between ground-nut oil and coconut oil and the price they pay for ground-nut oil never exceeds Rs. 4 a velt.

If the soap manufacturers are exposed to lose money in the future, it is advisable that they should turn their attention to another oil producing plant such as palm oil or candle nut oil (Bancoul) which has been introduced and whose seeds contain 60 per cent. of oil.

15. With coconut oil at the price of Rs. 2.75 cts. a velt in Seychelles the planter is able to realise Rs. 4 per hundred coconuts, the price paid for poonac having also risen from Rs. 4 to Rs. 12 per cwt., and the quantity of poonac corresponding to one velt of oil amounting to about 10 lbs. From an agricultural standpoint the high price paid for poonac acts as a barrier against a much greater coprah exportation.

It is to be hoped, however, that the planters who feed their cattle on poonac will bear in mind that they have in Seychelles a great number of fodder plants which can largely replace poonac and that with some trouble the barrier in question can be removed. For example, we have (*a*) cotton seeds which contain as much fat as poonac and more protein; (*b*) cane tops containing much sugar which according to recent researches is a most useful food element for cattle; (*c*) various beans, such as pois noir (Mucuna atropurpurea), Antaque (Dolichos lablab), Pois du cap (Phaseolus inamoenus), Boëme (Dolichos catyang), Acacia (Lucoena glauca) &c. which contain a very high percentage of nitrogen and which, when employed with cane tops and guinea grass for example, form an excellent ration; and (*d*) leaves and twigs of acacia, Lilas (Melia Azedarach), Jak (Artocarpus integrifolia) Bois noir (Albizzia Lebbeck), Bois d'oiseau (Tetranthera laurifolia), &c., which contain much more nitrogenous elements than the more commonly employed fruits of the Jak and fruit à pain (Artocarpus incisa).

Cacao.

16. The exportation of cacao during 1906 amounted to six tons. It is a pity that this plant does not attract more the attention of planters. It grows well in this colony and the beans are readily sold at 50 cents a pound. The yield per tree in the neglected plantations I have come across is not great and these plantations might be much improved by the eradication of the canker disease and the proper treatment of the soil.

Very important results have been published this year in the West Indian Bulletin concerning the manuring of cacao. In the experiments carried out in Dominica by the Honourable F. Watts, C.M.G., and Mr. Jones it has been shown that a plot mulched with grass and leaves (the sweepings of the lawns at the Botanic Station) has produced a gain of 77 per cent. over the no manure plot. A similar treatment of the orchards in Seychelles would lead to their substantial improvement especially if about four cwts. of guano and two of kainit per acre were yearly raked in with the leaves. Sweepings could be found on all estates in the leaves shed by the leguminous trees (Bois noir, Albizzia, &c).

Citrate of Lime.

17. The Director of the Imperial Institute has reported very favourably on a sample prepared in the Island of Silhouette which contained as much

as 66·89 per cent. of citric acid. This result has led to the erection of the necessary machinery received from Europe for the manufacture of this product on a large scale in the same locality.

Citrus trees grow very well in these islands and it is stated by some persons who have visited "Montserrat" that the yield of the limes and bigarades is greater in Seychelles than in the West Indies. It is advisable that the planters who go in for this product in Seychelles should be supplied at once with the necessary spraying machinery to combat the scale insects which give so much trouble in the West Indies.

Essential Oils.

18. I have to record the installation of two distilling apparatuses, one at Sans Souci, Mahé, and the other at Silhouette. It is very likely that a third apparatus will be put up in 1907, another planter having purchased 15,000 Ceylon lemon grass shoots from the Botanic Station.

The first distillation which I have been able to follow at Sans Souci was very successful, Seychelles lemon grass cut on road sides having produced 0·2 per cent. of the weight of the leaves in rainy weather. The yield of this plant had been found in the laboratory last year to reach 0·23 per cent. The Seychelles lemon grass is "Andropogon Citratus" and has long been grown in this Colony for its use in domestic medicines. It was introduced from Mauritius where it was brought by Monsieur Poivre in the latter half of the eighteenth century. This grass never flowers in Seychelles just like the Ceylon variety which I have introduced from Pointe de Galle in 1903. This latter variety, according to my first experiment, yields more oil than the Seychelles variety (0·34 per cent.). Both plants produce a great weight of oil in the dry season, although the amount produced in the wet season is not much less. This observation may serve to encourage the distillation of lemon grass in Seychelles all the year round, a crop being obtainable every three to four months. The samples which were submitted to the Imperial Institute in 1906 were found to be of very good quality and worth from 8*d*. to 8¾*d*. per ounce.

The Citronella introduced from Ceylon also in 1903 grows luxuriantly at the Botanic Station and flowers freely, the panicles being more loose than those of the mother plant (Mana grass). This introduced plant (Andropogan Nardus) produces five times more leaves per acre than the lemon grasses, but the sample submitted to the Imperial Institute was valued at only 1*s*. 7*d*. per pound—this being a fair price for the article. The yield obtainable experimentally was found to reach 0·40 per cent. in the good season. These figures go to show that it is more profitable to plant lemon grasses than Citronella in Seychelles, the first plant being in great demand for its constituent, Citral, from which all the synthetic violet perfumes are prepared.

The Citronella sample submitted to the Imperial Institute was found to contain a large proportion of geraniol as well as aldehydes from which it may be deduced that the plant introduced belongs to Maha Pengiri variety which yields the finer oil. According to Professor Dunstan the lemon grass oils are probably the best of the oils submitted to him for commercial production. In Seychelles we have, however, a certain number of other perfumes produced by trees which are well worth experimenting with as the climate and soil are more suitable to trees than to herbaceous plants. For this reason, samples of Bigarades (Citrus limonellus), wild Cinnamon (from leaves, bark, and roots), Ilang Ilang, Vetiver (Andropogan Muricatus) and a few others are being prepared on a great scale for valuation, the raw materials being easily obtainable at present. So far as I can judge from the cost of installation and working, I think that perfumes which are worth more than Rs. 8 per pound leave enough profit for their commercial production, provided the yield is not less than 0·2 per cent. of the weight of the raw materials.

The Bigarades although a waste product will probably not pay, as the price quoted by the Imperial Institute is 7*s.* 3*d.* to 7*s.* per pound, and the yield is only 0·15 per cent.

The planter at Sans Souci who started distillation this year and who is an expert on the matter stated to me that he is under the impression that the amount of perfumes in the plants growing in Seychelles is greater than that of the same plants grown at Réunion where essential oil distillation is carried on to a large extent. The following figures extracted from the report of Professor Dunstan are recorded.

—	Specific gravity.	Optical rotation.	Yield.	Value.
				s. *d.*
Bigarade ripe fruit	0·862	8,533	0·15	7 5 per lb.
Seychelles lemon grass	0·903	74*	0 21	0 8 per oz.
Ceylon lemon grass	0·894	71*	0·30	0 8 „
Ceylon citronella	0·910	1,249	0·40	1 7 per lb.
Ilang Ilang	0·958	4,527	0·60	14 0 „

Aldehyde content.

The price quoted for Ilang Ilang is ten times less than the price o tained at Réunion. This oil is very much subject to alteration when placed in contact with copper or iron. A sample of oil prepared with the same flowers but obtained in a copper still and a damaged tin condenser was found to present a much lower specific gravity and optical rotation than the oil obtained in a good tin condenser. The oil altered by contact with copper or iron is also darker in colour and worth only half as much as the good oil.

Plantains.

19. The company styled "Bacova" registered in Belgium has erected two factories during 1906, one at Pointe au Sel and the other at La Digue.

The dried plantains which are prepared for the European market amounted to 10 tons this year and it is anticipated that 50 tons will be produced in 1907. The varieties of plantains which have principally been used are the varieties described in my last report to which the Messrs Petit have added this year another variety called "Banane Carrée" which also produces an orange coloured flour. This latter variety produces bunches of 9 kilos (stalks removed) as compared with bunches of 12 kilos which are produced by the two other varieties, but banane carrée is a much hardier variety and grows on the same ground in bigger clumps for 10 years at least, whilst clumps of Bananes Malgaches and St. Jacques are renewed each alternate year in ordinary soil. It is desirable that banane carrée, which is insect proof, should be planted in the grounds previously occupied by the less hardy varieties which are attacked by a weevil (Sphenophorus Sordidus Sch).

Banane carrée is a tall plantain with its pseudo stem and leaves of a light green colour without the reddish and black blotches which are found on the stems of the other above named plantains. The flower cone is also lighter in colour (purple) and the fruit possesses a characteristic quadrangular section from which the name of the variety is derived.

The company "Bacova" has also been busy with the coprah manufacture and its machinery emerged from the experimental stage at about the middle of this year. Great advantage should be derived in Seychelles from the establishment of these up to date "evaporators" which produce articles of high grade and purity with much less trouble and labour than with the primitive processes. The company expects to dry vanilla, cloves, cassava, cardamom, &c., in the same way.

Rubber.

20. The measurements of the best trees (3½ years) show an average girth of 14 inches at 3 feet from the ground, as compared with 9 inches obtained last year. The measurements in height are proportional.

I was asked in May, 1906, by a planter in Praslin to tap a few trees 3½ years old, which measured 8¾ inches at 3 feet from the ground. After the first day's tapping it became clear to me that I had to limit the tapping area below 15 inches from the ground because a watery milk exuded above that height, and on account of the difficulty of wounding trees which are only three inches in diameter without causing the wounds on the opposite sides of the trees to cross each other and thus materially influence the flow of sap, V-incisions were practised at one inch from each other and about 20 incisions were made to each tree. The flow of latex was the same during the 8 days' tapping, showing no wound response, 256 grammes of latex were obtained and produced two small biscuits weighing 80 grammes. These were handed over to the planter after eight days drying only, and were forwarded by him in the undried state to an expert in London. The object of the experiment was to show that Para rubber trees yielded rubber in Seychelles and it is unfortunate that the biscuits obtained were such a cause of surprise to the planter in question, that he shipped them without drying them properly.

The experiment will be repeated this year and the biscuits in the dried state will be submitted to the authorities at the Imperial Institute. As a comparison an equal number of Ceara rubber trees of the same age, planted in very poor soil and of the same girth, were tapped in August. The same number of wounds were made to each tree (viz. 20) and the quantity of latex obtained was only 80 grammes instead of 256. Three Ceara trees did not yield any latex.

This experiment goes to show that "Para" rubber is decidedly superior to "Ceara" rubber in Seychelles as in all other humid countries. The rate of growth is about the same, as far as my experience goes, but I have always found the Para rubber trees (which are greatly benefitted by simply mulching and forking the ground) are much less attacked by scale insects than Ceara rubber. The former trees are remarkably immune from all sorts of diseases and stand, up to now, as a strikingly healthy plant as compared to all other trees growing in their neighbourhood.

21. As stated in my last report the Government has started experimental rubber plantations in 1906, and the following is a list of the plots already planted with the various sorts of rubber trees which have been successfully introduced into this Colony.

1. Para Rubber (Hevea Brasiliensis).

10	trees planted in	October, 1903 ...	Government House.
8	" "	" ...	Botanic Station.
20	" "	1904 ...	Capucin.
20	" "	1905 ...	Botanic Station.
185	" "	April, 1906 ...	Government House.
333	" "	December, 1906	" "

2. Ceara Rubber (Manihot Glaziovii).

20	trees planted in	October, 1903 ...	Botanic Station
53	" "	December, 1906 ...	Government House.

3. Lagos Rubber (Funtumia Elastica).

4	trees planted in	October, 1903 ...	Botanic Station.
3	" "	January, 1903 ...	Government House.

These three trees which were received directly from Lagos during my absence from the Colony are to be transplanted this year owing to insufficient growth as compared to those at the Botanic Station.

4. Assam Rubber (Ficus Elastica).

3	trees planted in	October, 1903 ...	Botanic Station.
3	" "	" ...	Government House.

These trees were grown from seeds obtained in Java and are said to be of special jat.

5. Panama Rubber (Castilloa Elastica.)

3	trees planted in	October, 1903 ...	Botanic Station.
3	" "	" ...	Capucin.

The trees at the Botanic Station are much better than those planted at Capucin (1,400 feet elevation) and the former have in December, 1906, formed their first permanent branches.

6. LOMBIRO RUBBER (CRYPTOSTEGIA MADAGASCARIENSIS).

30 vines planted in December, 1906 ... Botanic Station.
9 „ „ „ „ „ ... Government House.

7. VAHEA RUBBER (LANDOLPHIA MADAGASCARIENSIS).

50 vines planted in November, 1906 ... Botanic Station.
33 „ „ „ „ „ ... Government House.

These plantations are to be extended this year especially at Government House and Capucin Crown Land where Para rubber trees alone will occupy five acres of ground.

22. The Government has again in 1906 gone into heavy expenses for the introduction of Para rubber seeds from Ceylon. Two consignments were received in December, 1906, amounting to 150 Wardian cases, with a declared contents of 1,000 germinated seeds in each case, the Director of Peradeniya Gardens having selected this mode of transport. The cases arrived in good condition especially those of the first consignment, and some of these containing no less than 400 healthy plants. The average, however, was not much over 200 healthy plants per case. The cost of purchase of Wardian cases and of transport, aggregating to Rs. 5,000, is exceedingly high, working out at 20 cents. per plant; and planters prefer the risk of importing the seeds packed in charcoal.

A few planters have on their own account introduced seeds from Ceylon and although a few consignments came via Mauritius and via Marseilles and were lost, yet the number of plants obtained per 1,000 seeds on an average was quite equal to the number of plants grown in the Wardian cases. It seems for this reason that it is quite safe to introduce rubber seeds from Ceylon packed in charcoal and that it is not necessary to use Wardian cases. Out of the 150 cases, 50 cases were delivered unopened to planters at the cost of Rs. 50 a case and the rest were left in my charge for nursing and ultimate sale as potted seedlings.

Already (February) I have received orders for 3,000 potted plants and about an equal number will have to be planted on Government land in March.

When seedlings are grown in Wardian cases, about 20 per cent. of them are weak plants which have to be carefully nursed in a dense shade for a month before being saved. Most of the weak plants are those which grow from over-crowded seeds or seeds compressed by the bars of the case which cause the germ to twist several times before reaching the surface of the soil. When seeds are sown directly in nursery beds, the proportion of weak plants is much lower.

The absence of steamers running direct to Colombo, will, I am afraid always lead to some difficulty in the introduction of Para rubber plants from Ceylon. But as the first plants introduced are four years old, some of them will soon produce seeds and the heavy expenses incurred during the last three years will have no longer to be faced.

23. The rubber plants established in Seychelles may be put down as being

1,000	plants	4 years old.
100	„	3 „ „
2,000	„	2 „ „
25,000	„	1 „ „
50,000	„	seedlings distributed in every direction through Mahé and in Praslin.

SUGAR CANES.

24. Sugar cane plantations have been started this year with the best Mauritius varieties including seedling canes, to provide a supply for a rum distillery to be erected at Anse aux Pins. The warm and moist climate

of Seychelles is evidently favourable to sugar cane growing, and given the dry season which prevails during four months of the year at least, there is no doubt that rich canes will be obtained.

In the so called marshes of Seychelles where sugar canes contain a watery juice of poor density, those recommended are varieties like "Big Tana" which never trail on the ground and mature for this reason more easily. The young clearings of rubber in these marshes are well adapted to sugar cane planting as a catch crop. Rum distillation in the colony was a success some 20 years ago at Frigate Island, the articles produced having been, it appears, much appreciated by the "Chartreuse" manufacturers. There is no reason why the new distillery should not meet the same success and if it is successful a small sugar factory might be annexed to the distillery. It is far more beneficial from an agricultural stand-point to make sugar direct from the canes and to extract rum out of the first molasses than to convert sugar cane juices directly into rum.

The climate of Seychelles, as far as laboratory experiments are concerned, seem much more favourable to cane juice fermentation than the climate of Mauritius.

FISHERIES.

25. The total exports for the year amount to :

—	Kilos.	Rs.
Tortoise shell	2,754	58,728
Salted fish	16,376	3,173
Calipee...	3,154	3,325
Trepang	7,288	1,598
Cahousne	1,012	879
Birds' eggs	—	990
	—	68,693

These figures show that, except for tortoise shell, very little attention is paid, for the purposes of export, to the marine resources of this colony. I think the time is come to study carefully these resources and to devote some capital to the 40,000 or 50,000 square miles of coral banks existing round the Seychelles archipelagos.

According to Professor Gardiner we have enough fish to start the establishment of curing factories on modern lines. Besides rearing green and hawksbill turtle (the loggerhead turtle is said not to exist in Seychelles), we should turn our attention to :—

1. Fishing with modern methods such as trawling, stake and mackerel net fishing, driving, &c.

2. Cultivating oysters and other bivalves, such as mussels, &c. I have come across a small kind of mussel ? in extraordinary numbers at Aldabra, where crustaceæ, principally crabs of large dimensions, are also very abundant.

3. The gathering of sponges, mother of pearl and other shells of value.

It is desirable that a marine biological survey should be made beforehand, in order to determine the best spots for the erection of the necessary factories and laboratories.

26. The Messrs. Lanier successfully prepared this year albumen from birds' eggs at Desneuf and Remire Islands. These islands alone possess enough birds in the breeding season to prepare three tons of albumen worth Rs. 3·60 per kilo and to obtain as a by-product 30 tons of the yolks which, when salted, are worth 36 cents. per kilo. To obtain the commercial article the white of eggs, separated from the yolks by hand, was simply dried in tin plates in the shade outside the reach of insects.

R. DUPONT,
Curator, Botanic Station.

11th March, 1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
488	Gold Coast...	1905
489	Seychelles	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast ...	1905
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas	1905–1906
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	1905
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago	1905–1906
505	St. Lucia	1905
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland...	1905–1906
509	Fiji	1905
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906
511	Sierra Leone	1905.
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland...	1905–1906
514	British Guiana	"
515	British Honduras...	1905
516	Northern Nigeria...	1905–1906
517	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
518	Leeward Islands	"
519	East Africa Protectorate	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry.
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Departi of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture, 1884.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 567.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 520.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
August, 1908.

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ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF THE BOTANIC STATION, FOR THE YEAR 1907 29

No. 567.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 520.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
3rd May, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1907, to which is annexed a report by Mr. R. Dupont, the Curator of the Botanic Station.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

1125 Wt 24282 8/08 D & S 5 32928 A 2

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1907 amounted to Rs. 501,293, a total in excess of the Estimate by Rs. 115,418 and of the actual receipts in 1906 by Rs. 82,361.

2. The expenditure of the Colony in 1907 amounted to Rs. 381,029, representing under the estimates an excess of Rs. 5,331, and as compared with the actual expenditure of 1906, an excess of Rs. 10,057.

The actual revenue in 1907 exceeded the actual expenditure by Rs. 120,265.

The revenue for 1908 has been estimated at Rs. 490,860, and the expenditure has been fixed at Rs. 477,688·50.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	467,668	516,331
1904	383,096	447,939
1905	375,779	393,691
1906	418,932	370,971
1907	501,293	381,029

4. The revenue and expenditure of the Local Boards of Health established for the Central District (town of Victoria) for the South Mahé District, and for the Islands of Praslin and La Digue, are now included in the general statements of revenue and expenditure. In terms of Ordinance No. 32 of 1902, the Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. These Boards, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, are composed of a number of the most prominent persons, unofficial and official, whose interests are identified with those of the respective districts, under nomination by the Governor. Large powers of self-government entrusted to them have been wisely and satisfactorily used.

The votes allocated to the Local Boards in the Estimates for 1907 are as follows:—

Name of Boards.	Amount.	Actual Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
Central District	15,648	14,404
South Mahé	3,557	3,503
Praslin	2,000	1,579
La Digue	1,500	1,241
Total	22,705	20,767

The grants for 1908 have been fixed at Rs. 25,267.

Details of Revenue 1906 *and* 1907.

The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1906 and 1907:—

Head of Receipts.	1906.	1907.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	179,585 87	257,011 15
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	6,349 90	8,120 40
3. Licences, &c.	48,894 78	56,989 48
4. Taxes	53,474 59	46,549 13
5. Fees of Court, &c.	36,063 33	32,952 25
6. Post Office	22,032 70	17,206 05
7. Rents of Government Property	17,384 65	17,585 26
8. Interest	12,450 11	9,705 91
9. Miscellaneous	42,696 08	54,413 07
10. Land Sales	1,000 00	760 00
Total	419,932 01	501,292 70

6. The very great increase in Customs receipts was due to the increased purchasing power arising from the heavy yield and high prices of copra, followed by a large harvest of vanilla also selling at a high figure. Moreover, the systematic development of the guano and mangrove bark industries in certain outlying islands involved the importation of building material, machinery, and food stuffs on a large scale.

The revised arrangement of direct taxes under the provisions of Ordinances No. 13 of 1906 and No. 1 of 1907 yielded Rs. 58,940 (partly credited to Customs and Licences), against an Estimate of Rs. 54,000, and as compared with Rs. 51,641 raised under the local rate and Income Tax Ordinance No. 16 of 1900.

The increase under the head "Miscellaneous" is due to royalty on guano taken from Crown Lands (Rs. 37,381) and rent of Crown Lands leased (Rs. 16,772). The exportation of guano yielded to revenue a sum of Rs. 50,564, inclusive of

the export duty of R. 1 per ton. It is anticipated that the deposits available may yield 20,000 tons annually for twenty years. The items which composed this account will in future be classified separately, as it is intended to build up from this source during the next five years a sum equal to a normal year's revenue, both by reason of its being the proceeds of an extraordinary source of income and because of the violent fluctuations in revenue arising from the uncertain yield and prices of the vanilla industry.

The revenue is at present raised as follows:—

Direct taxation, 25 per cent.
Indirect taxation, 38 per cent.
Revenue from Crown Lands, 30 per cent.
Specific services rendered, 7 per cent.

The direct and indirect taxation represent a contribution of about Rs. 15 or one pound sterling per head of the population, which is low compared to the revenue raised elsewhere in communities of similar population and conditions.

Details of Expenditure 1906 *and* 1907.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1906 and 1907:—

Heads of Service.	1906.		1907.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	25	14,816	25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	12,147	75	14,090	78
3. Governor and Legislature	23,689	69	25,276	76
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	18,411	96	20,683	34
5. Audit Department	5,507	81	6,290	22
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	15,243	73	16,879	11
7. Legal Department	33,913	83	30,588	02
8. Police Department	32,677	25	33,901	77
9. Prison	12,110	36	9,750	69
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	32,862	69	31,568	04
11. Ecclesiastical Department	9,029	17	9,750	00
12. Education Department	25,733	88	27,305	95
13. Printing Department	2,728	37	3,053	98
14. Post Office Department	11,980	16	9,797	10
15. Transport	2,467	13	—	
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department.	9,996	53	15,275	42
17. Local Board, Central District	14,883	10	14,404	16
18. do. South Mahé	3,495	17	3,503	44
19. do. Praslin	1,545	69	1,579	28
20. do. La Digue	1,330	40	1,240	47
21. Exchange and cost of Remittances ...	9,475	94	2,500	77
22. Miscellaneous	7,339	10	15,528	66
23. Telegraphs and Steamer Subsidies	43,800	00	43,800	00
24. Public Works Department	9,613	64	9,973	79
25. do. Recurrent	11,501	44	12,449	64
26. do. Extraordinary	4,670	30	7,021	39
Total	370,971	34	381,029	33

8. The policy of rigorous retrenchment followed for the past three years was slightly relaxed during 1907, but the principle was adhered to of limiting normal expenditure to Rs. 350,000

The largest item of excess over the estimate, under the head "Botanic Station" (Rs. 5,279), was wholly due to the cost of introduction of Para rubber seeds and seedlings, for distribution among planters in order to form a further line of defence by way of supplementary resources. Many kinds of rubber are now introduced; most varieties grow well, and *Hevea* in particular has flowered and fruited in its fourth year.

The nominal increase under "Miscellaneous" (Rs. 8,190) is a matter of accounts, being rebate of R. 1 per ton under the agreement with the Mahé Syndicate which takes effect after the export of guano has reached 5,000 tons in one year. The decrease under the head "Interest" (Rs. 6,975) is due to the Colony having paid off its floating debt with the Crown Agents.

9. The following table shows the surplus of assets over liabilities from 1903:—

Year.	Amount. Rs. Cts.
1903	224,910·40
1904	160,007·33
1905	141,509·62
1906	175,432·96
1907	292,875·18

The assets are represented by Rs. 140,272 in cash and Rs. 327,076 in investments, viz., Rs. 250,776 in British and Colonial stock and Rs. 76,300 invested locally at 6 per cent. on the security of first mortgage on real estate under the provisions of the Loan to Planters Ordinance No. 4 of 1904. Advances due represent Rs. 14,080, and remittances in transit (Rs. 31,510).

The liabilities are represented by Savings Bank and other deposits (Rs. 209,089) and sundry unsettled advances (Rs. 10,974).

10. The public debt, which consists of a loan of £20,000 negotiated in 1899, is repayable, with interest at 2¾ per cent., in thirty annual instalments of £987 15*s.* 9*d.* (Rs. 14,816·25), of which seven have now been paid. This liability now stands at Rs. 250,065·58.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last seven years:—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901	1,149,646	1,210,646	1,417,515	1,483,245
1902	861,159	943,819	1,094,268	1,237,405
1903	966,641	1,024,641	825,525	968,325
1904	829,211	905,171	724,187	801,894
1905	789,785	823,452	808,032	848,744
1906	811,366	916,397	794,681	807,781
1907	1,364,787	1,174,412	2,270,520	2,270,820

The striking disparity between the bulk of the exports (2¼ millions) and the imports (1⅓ millions) is due to several causes, viz., the reduction of debts and overdrafts in Europe, the non-receipt of the value for the vanilla exported in the last months of 1906 but not realised until the following year, and the unpreparedness of the community to lay out to advantage the unlooked-for increase in income.

Inclusive of the importation of Rupees (Rs. 190,375) and the consignment of Rs. 300 to South Africa, the movements of cash in lieu of goods may be computed as follows:—

	Imported.	Exported.
	Rs.	Rs.
Specie	190,375	300
Notes in insured letters	183,965	29,880
Money Orders	12,435	73,061
British Postal Orders ...	897	2,867
	387,672	106,108

It is probable that the receipts of money, mainly in notes of high value, exceeded the remittances by a quarter million rupees; but this fact has not lessened the inconvenience arising from the constant drain of silver as represented by the savings carried away by merchants and coolies to India. The adverse balance of trade with Bombay is settled in rupees if sufficient bills are not forthcoming.

Imports.

12. The declared value of imports in 1907 was Rs. 1,174,412, exclusive of specie to the value of Rs. 190,375. The volume and value of imports generally represent the credit of the previous year. Although the population was still very poor at the beginning of 1906, the rise in value of copra during the latter half of that year stimulated traders to renew their stocks. The importation of specie was mainly due to the financing of the Mahé Syndicate and Bacova Company, who were developing respectively a trade in phosphates and in the desiccation of coconuts.

Foodstuffs were imported to the value of Rs. 347,348; the clothing bill was Rs. 284,636; and the drink bill, as declared at the Customs, Rs. 70,693. The actual expenditure of the consumer in wine and spirits, mainly rum, cannot have been less than Rs. 250,000, or fifteen shillings a head.

13. The imports, excluding specie, when classified according to countries of origin, present the following proportions:—

From the United Kingdom, Rs. 409,866, or 35 per cent.
From British Possessions, Rs. 530,542, or 45 per cent.
From Foreign Countries, Rs. 234,004, or 20 per cent.

These proportions very closely correspond with those of 1906. Of the total, 54 per cent. passed through the Suez Canal.

14. The following comparative table indicates the movements in trade, as regards imports from the United Kingdom, British possessions, and foreign countries (specie excluded):—

Comparative Table of Imports exclusive of Specie.

—	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom...	259,702	257,315	409,866
India	275,122	304,912	409,504
Mauritius	73,701	61,546	102,275
Aden	13,301	16,268	13,741
Zanzibar and East Africa	2,427	426	3,021
Other British Possessions	869	4,030	2,001
France	148,949	131,702	168,849
Madagascar and Dependencies	6,771	10,429	1,668
Réunion	3,434	1,636	4,147
Germany	4,898	15,006	40,980
Other Countries	611	8,056	18,360
Total	789,785	811,366	1,174,412

British imports are of very varied character; the most important are cotton goods (Rs. 108,518), coal and patent fuel (Rs. 34,342), iron ware (Rs. 62,204), and clothing (Rs. 57,536).

From India, rice (Rs. 181,159), is the chief item, then cotton goods (Rs. 142,773), and wheat flour (Rs. 22,650). From Mauritius, sugar (Rs. 39,087) and rum (Rs. 10,650) are the principal entries; and from Aden, coffee (Rs. 13,179). From France the most prominent are wine and spirits (Rs. 47,742), clothing and articles de mode (Rs. 44,200), and cotton goods (Rs. 14,217). The article of German origin is manufactured iron (Rs. 26,878).

Exports.

15. The declared value of exports in 1907 was Rs. 2,230,520 exclusive of specie, as compared with Rs. 794,681 in 1906.

The pride of place is occupied by vanilla, which realised nearly one million rupees, as against Rs. 100,000 in 1906. Coconut products rose from Rs. 432,474 to Rs. 770,630; guano from Rs. 163,979 to Rs. 395,630. The other items remained stationary.

The following list exhausts all present resources, although it is hoped that cinnamon bark, rubber, preserved eggs, and turtle and whale oil may figure in future lists:—

Produce.	Quantity.		Value. Rs.
1. Vanilla (5)	kilos.	66,406	996,918
2. Copra (1)	tons	1,960	546,117
3. Guano (2)	„	13,198	395,630
4. Coconut oil (4)	hectolitres	2,977	120,067
5. Soap (3)	tons	239	83,379
6. Tortoiseshell (6)	kilos.	724	30,974
7. Coconuts (7)	tons	618	21,057
8. Calipee (9)	kilos.	11,218	8,012
9. Cacao (11)	„	7,897	5,152
10. Mangrove bark (12)	tons	132	3,049
11. Salted fish	kilos.	16,410	2,776
12. Wood	pieces	3,701	2,721
13. Coco de mer	nuts	3,217	2,474
14. Cloves (23)	kilos.	3,785	2,470
15. Essential oils (25)	litres	162	2,384
16. Coffee (14)	kilos.	3,194	1,766
17. Limes, salted	barrels	63	1,449
18. Trepang (13)	kilos.	2,351	1,000
19. Fruits, fresh (22)	cases	170	994
20. Desiccated bananas	kilos.	3,191	648
			2,230,280
Other goods in transit			40,540
Total Value			2,270,820

NOTE.—The numbers in brackets represent the position on the list in 1906.

16. The vanilla crop was above the average in quantity, was of fair quality, and sold at a high price. The vagaries of this most inconstant product are illustrated in the subjoined table. A crop which varies from 17,000 to 66,000 kilos. in consecutive seasons, owing to trifling variations in the sunshine and rainfall, and in price from Rs. 6 to Rs. 15 per kilo. cannot be calculated upon as a staple product. All proprietors plant and tend their vines, but only as a by-product which may bring much or little pocket money. I trust that the hard experience of the past few years has taught even the most thriftless to cultivate other resources.

Value, Quantity, and Average Price of Seychelles Vanilla for the last Thirteen Years.

Year.	Total Value of exports (including specie).	Quantity of vanilla exported.	Declared value of vanilla.	Average price per kilo of vanilla.
	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs. cts.
1895	736,964	4,553	60,344	13 25
1896	1,569,912	31,227	936,000	29 97
1897	1,503,701	30,691	920,730	30 00
1898	1,381,514	25,177	748,810	29 74
1899	1,897,662	41,835	1,338,720	32 00
1900	1,036,161	17,569	580,877	33 06
1901	1,483,215	71,899	1,108,792	15 42
1902	1,237,405	60,862	642,331	10 55
1903	968,325	59,784	503,994	8 43
1904	801,894	41,072	300,026	7 30
1905	818,744	48,208	282,876	5 87
1906	807,781	17,118	101,818	5 95
1907	2,270,820	66,406	996,918	15 02

17. The total volume of coconut exports is, approximately 3,115 tons. The volume of copra (1,960 tons) has developed since 1905, owing to a rapid increase in value, the bulk of the export going to Marseilles. There is a corresponding decrease in the quantity of oil exported which has fallen to figures (298 tons), which are the lowest of which there is certain record; one half of the oil exported goes to Madagascar and the rest is sent to Mauritius, Bombay, and neighbouring ports.

The production of soap (239 tons) depends upon the price of oil, the principal markets being Zanzibar and Madagascar, where it has established a strong position in the face of European competition; it is probable, however, that the production will be curtailed as long as the quotations for copra remain at their present figure. The number of coconuts exported to Mauritius and Aden is reduced owing to the high prices obtained in the local market for manufacture into copra. The quantity of desiccated coconuts is included in the figures for copra. There is no industry in the production of

coir rope or fibre. Poonac, a by-product of coconut oil, is largely consumed locally for feeding stock, although not exported; and the scarcity, owing to the restricted quantity of oil prepared, is a serious inconvenience to the small farmer.

The following table shows the annual variations in the products of the coconut palm for 13 years. The total crop of nuts in 1907 is estimated at 24 millions.

Exports of Products of the Coconut Palm.

Year.	Coconut oil.		Soap.		Coconuts.		Coprah.		Total value of coconut products
	Hectolitres	Rs.	Kilograms.	Rs.	No	Rs.	Kilos.	Rs.	Rs.
1895	14,048	375,908	2,196	724	1,632,860	32,647	—	—	409,279
1896	15,122	441,882	68,388	18,015	1,293,136	26,237	—	—	486,134
1897	13,521	362,968	72,705	21,810	1,492,475	29,849	—	—	414,627
1898	8,808	236,430	189,645	56,923	1,695,236	34,094	—	—	327,447
1899	14,705	392,055	91,696	30,564	983,418	19,667	—	—	442,286
1900	12,044	268,609	159,142	35,778	1,083,302	27,524	—	—	331,911
1901	9,419	147,533	116,095	31,560	1,071,732	26,228	—	-	205,321
1902	11,326	242,343	173,476	45,990	1,117,960	24,815	5,390	827	313,148
1903	18,504	160,977	234,421	56,851	1,241,026	28,848	30,458	5,884	246,676
1904	9,919	180,045	217,432	56,439	883,044	26,021	267,200	43,744	294,249
1905	11,800	250,070	350,157	101,989	551,135	12,188	296,718	49,704	413,951
1906	4,290	123,942	419,329	129,590	376,340	9,484	899,217	139,458	432,474
1907	2,977	120,067	238,858	83,379	617,785	21,067	1,950,526	546,117	770,630

18. Guano was exported to the amount of 13,220 tons. Despite many difficulties, inseparable from work on a coral island of 340 acres without a water supply or harbourage, the development of the phosphate deposits on St. Pierre by the Mahé Syndicate, Limited, has progressed satisfactorily. It is probable that the output may reach 20,000 tons in 1910. In 1906, some 6,000 tons were collected from 10 acres. This island, which is the property of the Crown, probably contained one quarter of a million tons of guano rich in phosphoric acid but lacking nitrates. Phosphates are also being steadily worked on the Amirantes Group—also Crown property—and on North Island and Flat Island, which are private property.

There are other rich deposits which have not yet been exploited.

19. Of the other items scheduled in paragraph 15, tortoise-shell is a variable item; the number of hawksbill turtle which reach these islands depends upon the prevalence of certain capricious ocean currents. The out-turn in 1907 was only half that of 1906.

The production of dried calipee is for the London market, used in the making of turtle soup. There seems to be a certain demand.

Cacao, cloves, and coffee all grow well, but do not receive adequate attention.

There should be an excellent prospect in the harvesting of mangrove bark on Aldabra, where there are 100,000 tons of the bark of *Burghiera*, *Ceriops*, and *Rhizophora* awaiting collection. The analysis of *Burghiera* in particular is most favourable. Good results have also been obtained from *Pemphis acidula* (bois d'amande). The difficulties in the organising of this enterprise are due to the distance of the island (600 miles) from Mahé and the lack of regular steam communication, as well as to the strong tides in the central lagoon.

The distillation of essences is being seriously taken in hand and samples have been placed on the market of cinnamon bark and leaf, clove leaf oil, lemongrass and citronella oil. If it were feasible to utilise thus the forest of cinnamon trees, the venture would be of great value to the Colony. Ylang Ylang is being cultivated by several planters; also cardamoms.

A rum distillery will be in operation in 1908.

Efforts are being made to introduce the industry of citrate of lime. The venture of desiccating bananas has for the present been abandoned. The attempt to introduce the pine-apples and oranges of Seychelles for the winter season at Cairo was a failure owing to the opposition of the crew of the French mail boats.

The harvest of the sea has never yet been sufficiently studied. The sea swarms with multitudes of fish for which, when salted, there should be a steady market in Réunion and Mauritius where fish are rare. Moreover, there are ideal lagoons for the culture of pearl shell and sponges.

20. Subjoined is a table showing the immediate destination of exports (including specie) and the declared value at the Customs, for the last seven years:—

Comparative Table of Exports to Principal Countries, 1901 *to* 1907.

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	537,135	396,953	350,565	169,873	197,602	114,177	648,906
France	563,902	294,094	192,900	228,978	202,478	263,712	936,667
Mauritius and Réunion.	205,266	267,646	239,249	166,004	184,029	59,986	130,640
India and Aden	78,354	132,510	67,939	131,176	82,278	65,899	168,257
African Ports ...	24,990	51,694	68,054	40,701	58,072	78,805	51,368
Madagascar ...	29,225	43,396	30,733	29,861	98,334	119,646	70,833
Other Countries	44,373	51,112	18,885	35,302	25,951	105,606	264,149
Total ...	1,483,245	1,237,405	968,325	801,895	848,744	807,781	2,270,820

21. To the United Kingdom, the principal items exported are: vanilla, Rs. 454,361; guano, Rs. 123,000; copra, Rs. 43,277; tortoise shell, Rs. 11,987; calipee, Rs. 7,677; Cacao, Rs. 3,554. Total Rs. 648,906.

22. The exports to British Possessions are as follows:—To India, Rs. 151,390; viz., copra (Rs. 118,418) and coconut oil (Rs. 24,250). To Mauritius, Rs. 109,284; viz., guano (Rs. 36,300), coconut oil (Rs. 31,389), coconuts (Rs. 9,138), soap (Rs. 5,299), and copra (Rs. 1,966). To Zanzibar, Rs. 51,108, of which soap (Rs. 44,664) is the principal item. To Aden, Rs. 16,867; chiefly coconut oil (Rs. 14,627). To Mombassa, Rs. 260 in coconuts. To Hong Kong, Rs. 1,055; in trepang (Rs. 1,000). To New Zealand, Rs. 34,500, in guano. To Natal, Rs. 20; and to Australia, Rs. 10. The total British Possessions is Rs. 364,494; and to all places under the British flag Rs. 1,013,400.

23. The exports to France amount to Rs. 936,667; viz., vanilla (Rs. 531,064); copra (Rs. 375,256); and tortoiseshell (Rs. 18,487). To Madagascar, Rs. 70,833; mainly, soap (Rs. 33,416) and coconut oil (Rs. 28,618). To Réunion, Rs. 21,356, viz., cocoanut oil (Rs. 15,833) salted fish, and limes. Total to France and French Possessions, Rs. 1,028,856.

24. To other foreign countries the total is Rs. 219,034; viz., to Belgium, guano declared at Rs. 166,220. To Holland, guano declared at Rs. 33,570. To Germany, Rs. 17,746; viz., vanilla (Rs. 9,995), and copra (Rs. 7,200). To Switzerland, vanilla declared at Rs. 1,498.

(B.) Manufactures.

25. Considerable progress has been made in manufactures. Soap boilers have turned out for export half a million pounds of soap of an excellent quality, besides supplying the needs of the Colony.

Three factories for desiccation of coconuts have been established with new and improved machinery.

A rum distillery is in course of erection; and the distillation of essential oils has been attempted, and subsidiary industries may eventually be established in this connection. Coconut oil is prepared and copra is dried on every estate; the mills are primitive and wasteful, but produce a good article. Vanilla, coffee, cacao, and cloves are cured and prepared for the market on a number of estates.

26. Engineering works, established in 1905, adjoining the long pier, have been enlarged and developed; repairs to sailing ships and engine room fittings are undertaken; a steam tug is in course of construction, and a motor engine has been installed on a trading schooner owned in Mahé. An ice factory has been set up in the same connection.

27. The coaling business of the port has advanced greatly in efficiency; recent improvements have led to the handling of

300 to 400 tons in a working day; a maximum quantity of 525 tons was recently placed on board a Dutch man-of-war.

28. There is great need for small steamers or steam trawlers to maintain speedy and regular communication with the islands on which industrial centres have been established. It is probable that several more of the locally-owned schooners will be fitted with petroleum motor engines.

(C.) Fisheries.

29. All the natives of Seychelles are skilled sailors, and most families on the shore own pirogues—as the small fishing boats are called—and inter-island communication is carried on by means of half-decked sailing boats and whale boats. The more distant islands are served by a steam trawler of 46 tons, and a fleet of schooners ranging from 10 to 100 tons.

Fish and green turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*) take the place of meat, and large quantities are consumed fresh. The banks on which the various archipelagos are situated swarm with fish of many varieties, and recent legislation has removed many restrictions on the trade in salted and dried fish which might—with more enterprise—be considerably extended. The fisheries for tortoiseshell obtained from the hawksbill turtle (*Chelonia imbricata*) yielded 724 kilos. of shell, valued at Rs. 30,974. Salted fish was exported to the amount of 16,410 kilos. declared at Rs. 2,776. Trepang or bêche de mer was exported to the amount of 2,351 kilos. declared at Rs. 1,000. Samples of chanks and mother-of-pearl shell have been exported for valuation. There are lagoons well suited for shell and sponge culture. Calipee, from the fins of the green turtle, was exported to the weight of 11,218 kilos., declared at Rs. 8,012.

(D.) Agriculture and Crown Lands.

30. An instructive report by Mr. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Station is annexed, in which are recorded the year's efforts at advancement in agriculture. The receipts from Crown Lands amounted to Rs. 64,791, and the departmental expenditure was Rs. 10,610.

The crop of coconuts for 1907 is estimated by Mr. Dupont at 21¾ millions of nuts, as compared with 19 millions in 1906; and the market price rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3·50 per 100 nuts. The vanilla crop was 66½ tons, as compared with 20 tons in 1906, the world's output being estimated at 513 tons.

31. Mr. Dupont lays stress on the utilisation of the bark of the cinnamon trees which grow wild throughout Mahé in large quantities and to a considerable size. Cinnamon oil prepared from imported chips is quoted at Rs. 40 per litre on the continent of Europe. The average yield of bark for chips is put at 20 lbs. for an average tree; the oil extracted locally in a newly-established still with a capacity of 4,000 litres gives a return of 0·40 per cent. of the weight of dry bark. A stimulus

has been given to the collection of bark for export; and there is a wide-spread belief that considerable profit may result from this new enterprise. The bark available at once for harvesting as cinnamon chips exceeds 50,000 tons.

Para rubber trees (*Hevea brasiliensis*) have flowered and fruited at the age of four years. Mr. Dupont discusses the relative value in Seychelles of the varieties of rubber-yielding trees and creepers, and gives the results of experiments in tapping the Para trees and the Vahea vines—*Landolphia Madagascariensis.*

32. The exports of the outlying islands are computed to aggregate in value to Rs. 441,881. Two or three years ago the value probably did not exceed Rs. 50,000. A report by Mr. Dupont has been published by the Government, embodying the results of a visit of two months spent in a scientific examination of the Aldabra Group.

(E.) Shipping.

33. The tonnage of vessels entering and clearing—exclusive of coastwise trade—is higher than in 1906, and the facilities for sea-borne trade are much improved. The tonnage under the French flag, as represented by the two calls per month of the Messageries steamers, remains constant: British shipping has fallen considerably, and German vessels have taken the place of British. Every opportunity was offered to British lines to call, but in every case the inducements were considered insufficient. The German East African Line (D.O.A.L.), however, considered the prospects sufficiently promising, and have arranged to call at Mahé by time table on their service between Bombay and East Africa, and to detach ships to call at St. Pierre on their way home from South Africa, in order to pick up cargoes of guano. The establishment of a regular line of communication with Bombay is a great relief, on account of the inconvenience which arose through the irregular supply of rice and other food-stuffs.

The following gives the total tonnage entering and clearing during 1906 and 1907, by nationalities:—

Nationality.	1906.		1907.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	61	115,702	56	83,123
France	54	114,444	53	115,048
Germany	9	5,289	30	50,076
Norway	7	6,304	8	4,608
United States	2	728	2	2,100
Italy	—	—	2	1,990
Portugal	2	3,600	—	—
	135	246,067	151	256,945

34. Three British men-of-war (tonnage 10,579) visited Mahé during 1907, and three cruisers called, flying respectively the colours of the United States, France, and Germany. The total war tonnage for five years is recorded, showing the marked decrease of visits under the new principle of concentration:—

Year.	Tonnage.
1903	47,423
1904	33,030
1905	28,954
1906	21,454
1907	12,743

35. The mail service is carried out by French steamers of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, which call once a month homeward bound to Marseilles and outward bound to Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius.

Means of Communication among the Islands.

36. The Port Office is an important department in a Colony which consists of 90 islands and groups of islands, several of which are situated over 600 miles from Mahé. The main interest centres in the Seychelles Archipelago, consisting of 45 mountain tops and coral atolls, rising from the Seychelles Bank, an area measuring 150 miles from north to south, and about the same from east to west. In this area the soundings do not exceed 50 fathoms, with an average depth of 1,700 fathoms outside the line of the banks. The islands in this group are served, for administrative purposes, by means of a Government steam launch, the "Alexandra," of 30 tons, built at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard, and received in December, 1902. The "Alexandra" made in 1907 52 voyages, including a regular fortnightly service to Praslin and La Digue, the islands which, in population and importance, rank next to Mahé. She conveyed 821 passengers and a considerable quantity of cargo. During the height of the south-east trades —June to August—when the sea runs high among the islands, it is thought prudent to limit the regular service to one trip a month, passengers preferring to travel by sailing craft during these months. Her earnings amounted to Rs. 2,882, and her maintenance to Rs. 5,047. Between the months from November to March there are often long periods of calms, during which her steam power renders the launch of great public convenience; but when there is sufficient wind, numerous whale boats and schooners ply between the islands. The Governor made use of the launch on five trips of inspection during the year. The service of the steam launch is supplemented by the use of a Government cutter, the "Wave," of 7½ tons, which is used on a monthly service to the lighthouse on Denis Island, an atoll on the northern edge of the banks, 55 miles from Victoria. The lighthouse service, efficiently maintained, is under the control of the Port Officer. There is in addition a fleet of

smaller boats employed by the Government in local service for the medical officers, the police, the preventive service, and on quarantine duty. The Amirantes Archipelago, situated on a bank to the west and south-west of Mahé, the nearest point being 120 miles off, extends north and south some 260 miles, with a maximum breadth of 59 miles. This archipelago consists of 27 islands or atolls, divided into five groups, known as the African Banks, St. Joseph Group, Poivre Island, Alphonse Group, and Providence Group, the last named being within 170 miles of Cape Amber, the most northern point of Madagascar. This archipelago, as well as the Cosmoledo Islands (12 in number, situated 210 miles west of Providence) and the Aldabra Group (of five more islands, 60 miles still further to the west) are served by sailing craft owned in Seychelles. During 1907 all the groups and islands, except Bird Island, lying to the extreme north and not at present inhabited, were officially inspected by the Visiting Magistrate, under the provisions of the Outlying Islands Ordinance; the important groups were frequently visited. In addition, the Governor visited several islands, and special investigations were carried out by the Curator of the Botanic Station, by the Inspector of Police, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Superintendent of Works.

Most of the outlying islands are highly fertile, and grow coconuts and maize luxuriantly; and on several there are valuable deposits of guano and phosphate of lime.

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 1 provided a new scheme of direct taxation, in substitution for the methods provided by Ordinance No. 16 of 1900, a law which was highly unpopular in the community owing to the inquisitorial character of its provisions, especially in regard to the assessment of income tax. The change of system was based on the unanimous recommendations of a large and influential committee of the various unofficial elements, the only condition imposed being that the aggregate revenue provided should be equal to that (Rs. 54,000) which was normally yielded under the obnoxious law. The new scheme included (1) a land tax of 30 cents. (5*d.*) per acre, (2) a town property tax of ½ per cent. on the capital value of immovables, (3) a tenant's tax of 4 per cent. on annual rental value, (4) a capitation tax of Rs. 3 for each male adult between the ages of 18 and 55 years inclusive, (5) a surtax on certain import duties of 5 per cent., and (6) a surtax on licences of 10 per cent. The new

taxes yielded Rs. 58,940, as against Rs. 52,338 in 1906; and imprisonment for default practically ceased.

No. 2.—The Supplementary Supply Bill for 1906, noteworthy as making provisions for the smallest sum (Rs. 7,906) on record.

No. 3 provides for giving pratique to vessels loading and unloading at outlying islands, either before or after call at Port Victoria. The object of the law is to develop the exploitation of guano, phosphates, and mangrove bark, while at the same time safeguarding the existing precautions for preventing the introduction of diseases into the Colony.

No. 7 simplifies the law as to licences (No. 7 of 1903), and abolishes a number of licences on certain petty trades, especially the catching and hawking of fish, the burning and selling of lime, and the sale of estate produce.

No. 10 amends the Civil Status Ordinance, No. 4 of 1893, and enables the Supreme Court to presume the deaths of persons who have disappeared. It remedies the hardships arising from the restrictions in the registration of deaths of those drowned at sea whose bodies have not been recovered.

No. 12 provides for the Estimates of 1908.

38. The collection and revision of the laws of Seychelles has been concluded in 1907. Volume 1 contains Mauritius laws in force in Seychelles; Volume 2 contains Seychelles laws from 1872 to 1898, and Volume 3 from 1899 to 1906. The Ordinances passed each year are now published in the following January.

IV.—EDUCATION.

39. The total number of children receiving instruction in 1907 in schools subject to Government inspection or control was 2,306, representing 10·75 per cent. of the population. Higher education is represented by the Victoria School—a Government institution on an undenominational basis (108 boys); St. Louis College, for boys, conducted by the Marist Brothers (117); and St. Joseph Convent, for girls, under the control of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny (107). A Seychelles centre has been established for the Cambridge Local Examinations, on the result of which two scholarships may be awarded yearly of Rs. 600 for four years. An amended Scholarships Ordinance enables the Board of Education to send the holder of a scholarship to a technical college, or to cause him to be apprenticed to any approved occupation, or to allow him to continue his study at the Victoria School, Seychelles, at the Royal College, Mauritius, or at any approved

school or college elsewhere in British Possessions. By a new regulation, framed with the view of encouraging the local schools, four exhibitions may be awarded annually at the Victoria School to pupils, under the age of thirteen years, of any primary school in Seychelles. There are fourteen primary schools under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church, and four schools belonging to the Church of England.

The Government grant-in-aid to the denominated schools was fixed at Rs. 10,000.

40. The direction of the educational policy of the Colony is under the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and his Executive Council, advised by an Education Committee composed of the Chief Justice as Chairman, four members nominated by the Governor (of whom two are officials and two unofficials), two persons nominated by the Roman Catholic Bishop, and one by the Civil Chaplain of the Church of England, with the Inspector of Schools as secretary.

The standard of knowledge acquired by the pupils is not high when measured by what is now expected in most countries. The peasant children and the children of African origin are not naturally bright, and labour under the disadvantage of knowing only a creole patois, which is too restricted and rude to be a medium of learning. As far as possible, English is now the sole medium through which teaching is imparted, but its acquisition is that of a foreign language. The same difficulty would apply in almost as marked a degree to the use of French as a medium. But little assistance is received from home surroundings, as the patois is, in the majority of the houses, the sole language used. There is, however, a growing desire on the part of parents to obtain for their children the advantage of a fair knowledge of English. A popular and useful institution is an exhibition of school work of all kinds, held annually in December.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

41. The Victoria Hospital is the only general hospital in Seychelles. The excellent system of roads carried out by my predecessor renders it unnecessary to establish a similar institution in South Mahé. A cottage hospital in Praslin, to serve the group of islands administered from that centre, would be a public benefit, and the project will be kept in view until such time as the resources of the Colony are in such an improved condition as to warrant the expenditure.

The Victoria Hospital is supplemented by the establishment of six outdoor dispensaries, namely, one at Victoria, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer; two, at Anse Royale and Anse Boileau respectively, serving the needs of South Mahé, under the direction of the Assistant Medical Officer for that division; and three under the Assistant Medical Officer for the Praslin District, namely, two on the island of Praslin, at Baie St. Anne and Grand Anse, and one on the adjacent island of La Digue.

42. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital for the last five years are given in the following table:—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1903 ...	172	52	8	28	9	269
1904 ...	210	38	13	20	18	299
1905 ...	241	45	20	14	14	334
1906 ...	192	52	8	22	10	284
1907 ...	219	34	13	14	10	276

The hospital is central and well situated. The wards are airy and well constructed, and the water supply is pure and unlimited. There is a commodious dispensary adjacent, and quarters are provided for the Chief Medical Officer and for the three nursing sisters, who belong to the Roman Catholic Society of St. Joseph de Cluny.

Dispensaries.

43. The number of persons who attended for treatment at the outdoor dispensaries was 3,263. As usual the number of females attending the dispensaries (2,471) greatly exceeds the number of men (792). The fullest confidence is felt in the ministrations of five doctors with British qualifications.

Principal Diseases.

44. The death rate per mille in 1907 fell to 14·32, as compared with 17·28 in 1906. The average for the nine years previous was 16·84. Infantile mortality has fallen from an average of 127 per annum for a period of ten years and 147 in 1906, to 101 in 1907, owing to the absence of epidemics. Nine cases of beri-beri have been under treatment, involving three deaths; they were all traceable to the outlying islands; seven of the cases were brought from Marie Louise Island, in the Amirantes Archipelago. The Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé notes an increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis in his district. Influenza—or perhaps it may be dengue fever—has been prevalent, but no deaths are attributable to this malady.

The supply of vaccine received from Europe by the monthly mails is of good quality and gives excellent results, the successful cases being over 99 per cent. Vaccination of infants is obligatory.

Leper Asylum.

45. There are ten lepers in the home at Round Island. The Medical Officer in charge is of opinion that leprosy is not on the increase, but his experience goes to show that there are families in which there is susceptibility towards this malady. The home on Round Island, in the Baie St. Anne, within ready access from the house of the Assistant Medical Officer of Praslin, is well adapted for the treatment of cases.

Pauper Camp.

46. The number of paupers maintained by the Government at the close of the year was thirteen. These patients represent the old and destitute, principally liberated slaves. The camp is roomy, healthily placed, and well kept.

Lunatic Asylum.

47. Insane persons were sent until 1906 to the Government Asylum of Mauritius, where six cases are still under treatment. The disadvantages of long transfer by sea in sailing vessels—for the regular mail steamers refuse insane patients—are obvious, and the distance causes difficulties attending discharge of patients on probation. Moreover, the charge for maintenance is high, the cost of transport is usually expensive, and months have at times passed before an opportunity has occurred for the transfer of a patient to Mauritius. It has now been resolved to establish an asylum at Anse Royale under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé, who has made a special study of mental diseases. An Ordinance has been passed (No. 3 of 1906) for the care and treatment of lunatics; temporary quarters are still in occupation, but the permanent asylum buildings will be completed in 1908.

Savings Bank.

48. The following table gives the saving bank statistics for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs. Cts.
1903 ...	291	35	23	58,067·07
1904 ...	302	34	23	58,462·53
1905 ...	307	39	34	67,852·10
1906 ...	315	23	15	131,546·43
1907 ...	356	49	8	158,283·03

The large increase in deposits is due to the prosperity of 1907, and the accumulation of savings awaiting investment in land or mortgage.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Law Courts.

49. The following table shows the volume of judicial work transacted in the five years, 1903-7:—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Cases adjudicated.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.	No. of Stipendiary Cases.	No. of Cases in Chambers.
1903 ...	1,108	1,099	1,293	1,071	271	94	64
1904 ...	1,083	1,077	1,278	808	232	24	80
1905 ...	1,032	1,024	1,487	1,262	181*	16	80
1906 ...	1,195	1,190	1,558	1,419	203†	17	58
1907 ...	1,262	1,247	1,397	1,239	179‡	29	60

* In addition to 514 cases referred to Court for non-payment of local rate.

† In addition to 203 cases referred to Court for non-payment of local rate.

‡ In addition to 92 cases referred to Court for non-payment of local rate.

50. The number of cases of crime and misdemeanour dealt with in the Supreme Court of Seychelles was 369; 389 persons were charged, 342 convicted, 45 acquitted, and two were awaiting trial at the end of the year. The bulk of the convictions (including 180 for contraventious under specific Ordinances—especially the Licensing Law—and 76 for petty larcenies), were for offences of a trifling character. There was a marked absence of serious crime.

The number of cases dealt with in the Police Court was 515; 615 persons were charged and 571 convicted, mostly for drunkenness or disturbance. The Justice of the Peace for South Mahé had before him 208 accused persons, of whom 169 were convicted. The Justice of the Peace for Praslin and La Digue tried 185 persons, and convicted 154. The Visiting Magistrates for the outlying islands dealt with three cases, all of which resulted in convictions; but the offences were of a trifling character. The population as a whole is singularly law-abiding, and there is a marked absence of the litigious element which bulks so largely in the statistics of India and

the Dependencies of the Further East. The illicit preparation of "bacca," the fermented juice of the sugar cane, is still prevalent, and the custom of having a "festin" in order to clear an extent of land for cultivation, to which all the labourers in the neighbourhood are invited and rewarded by a free distribution of fermented "bacca," leads to drunkenness and disorder.

Police Force.

51. The authorised strength of the police force remained throughout the year at 59, of all ranks. In addition, one corporal and eight constables were in charge of the political prisoners, their services being paid for by the Governments of the Gold Coast and of the Uganda Protectorate. The cost of the regular police has been gradually reduced from Rs. 40,557 in 1903 to Rs. 33,902 in 1907. The police prosecuted in 1,006 cases, involving 1,223 persons, of whom 1,119 were convicted. The following table shows the comparative results for five years:—

Year.	No of cases.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.	Declared value of property lost.	Value of property recovered.	Fines inflicted.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1903 ...	869	1,079	987	2,906	2,091	9,303
1904 ...	797	961	836	4,385	503	8,025
1905 ...	1,023	1,295	1,163	1,191	969	9,858
1906 ...	1,072	1,373	1,275	1,294	699	8,880
1907 ...	1,007	1,223	1,119	1,999	933	12,806

52. Seven cases of burglary were reported to the police, and convictions followed in all cases. The prevalence of praedial theft has been checked, the number of unemployed labourers having decreased owing to the demand for men on the outlying islands. The police force has greatly improved in efficiency and *morale* during the past two years. The fines included one of Rs. 3,000 for possession of an illicit still.

Prison.

53. The number of persons committed to prison during 1907 amounted to 390 men and 61 women, a decrease of 240 as compared with the figures for 1906; but of this total 297 were under remand for safe custody or were sentenced to simple imprisonment in default of payment of fines imposed by the Courts. The number actually sentenced to undergo penal imprisonment was 153, viz., 132 men and 21 women, a total of less than half of the convictions in 1906. The daily average of prisoners was 48, of whom four were women. Eighteen persons, all males, were admitted to the prison infirmary;

there were two deaths. There were no cases of corporal punishment.

The printing department is now carried on within the precincts of the prison, with a marked improvement in the quantity and quality of the work turned out and an economy of 35 per cent. in the expenditure.

The prison is now on a level with modern requirements. The cost of the Prison Department in 1907 was Rs. 9,482. The cost in 1906 was Rs. 12,110, and in 1905 Rs. 15,018. The subjoined table shows the statistics for the past five years:—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in the prison.
1903...	450	45
1904...	467	50
1905...	660	75
1906...	691	70
1907...	451	48

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

54. The population on the 31st December, 1907, was estimated at 21,502, viz., 11,009 males and 10,493 females. The births numbered 688—31·99 per mille—and the deaths 308—14·32 per mille.

The number of still-births was 50. The proportion of illegitimate births is 30 per cent. There were 132 marriages. The density of the population is 13·83 per square mile.

CLIMATE.

55. The following table gives the rainfall and the maximum and minimum shade temperature in Victoria for the last five years:—

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	Maximum Shade Temperature.	Minimum Shade Temperature.	Number of Wet Days.
		°F.	°F.	
1903...	132·96	88·5	68·0	171
1904...	106·74	87·2	68·2	160
1905...	88·91	88·0	71·0	147
1906...	96·12	88·7	70·6	194
1907...	82·43	87·5	70·1	171

The average daily maximum was 82·3°, and the minimum 76·6°. The mean temperature was 79·45°, slightly higher than the average of the nine years previous, viz., 79·04°.

The average rainfall for the last fifteen years has been 100·8 inches; the fall in 1907 was below the average, but it was evenly and satisfactorily distributed throughout the year, and there was no recurrence of a period of drought such as wrought such havoc in the plantations in 1904 and 1905. On the 20th of February 6·43 inches of rain fell in two hours.

The winds were very light during the first five months of the year, and the south-east trades were not thoroughly established until June, dying away in the middle of November. The force of wind occasionally rose to 20 miles per hour.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

56. The volume of correspondence, which was checked in 1904 by the suspension of the mail service due to strikes at the port of Marseilles, has not maintained the marked advance made in 1905. The only noticeable increase occurs in the despatch of pictorial post cards. Local postal matter shows a considerable increase.

57. The mail service is performed by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes. There is no formal contract, but steamers leaving Marseilles on the 25th of each month call at Mahé on the outward voyage to Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius about the 10th of each month. Return steamers call about the 8th of each month, arriving in Marseilles about the 25th. This arrangement of dates precludes the sending of a reply to a letter for nearly a month after its receipt, either in Seychelles or in the United Kingdom. For this service the company receives a subsidy of 2,000 francs for each call, and it is entitled to exemption from all harbour dues and from local rates. The cost of conveyance of mails beyond the Colony in 1907 was Rs. 30,026. Since December, 1906, the General Post Office has made up a mail to leave Marseilles on the 10th of each month by Messageries Maritimes steamers on that branch of their Indian Ocean route which calls at Zanzibar and Diego Suarez, and from the latter port the bags are transferred to the homeward-bound mail steamer. The passage of mails by this route occupies 30 days from London, as compared with 17 days by the direct route.

His Majesty's ships of war are always prepared to carry mails; and opportunities occur each month for the despatch of the supplementary mails by steamers calling at the port of Victoria.

58. There is no inland service of telegraph, but a cable station is established at Mahé by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, on the line to Australia. This Government pays to the company an annual subsidy of Rs. 15,000 (£1,000) towards the maintenance of a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, under an agreement to be in force for twenty years and expiring in 1913, entered into between the Imperial Government and the company, the total subsidy amounting to £28,000 per annum.

59. The following table shows the business transacted in post office money orders:—

Money Orders (including British Postal Orders).

Year	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
External—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs
Money Orders issued ...	60,412	53,323	75,229	55,419	73,061
Money Orders paid ...	16,596	10,097	10,144	14,368	12,436
Totals	77,008	63,420	85,373	69,787	85,497
Internal—					
Money Orders issued and paid.	3,889	6,426	7,370	5,813	4,538

Of the remittances through the Post Office, 61 per cent. goes to India, and 16 per cent. to the United Kingdom. The remittances through the Post Office to India represent for the most part savings of Indian settlers.

60. Departmental receipts vary very greatly according to the orders of stamp dealers. Purchases by dealers fell from Rs. 10,166 in 1906 to Rs. 2,240 in 1907; but the legitimate revenue from stamps rose from Rs. 11,867 to Rs. 14,966.

——	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Local receipts	35,183	12,743	17,265	22,033	17,206
Local expenditure	14,064	10,095	8,619	10,384	9,853

IX.—GENERAL.

61. The year under review was exceptionally prosperous, owing to the large crops of coconuts and vanilla and the high prices obtained for both these staple products. Such exceptional good fortune is not likely to occur again, but there are abundant signs of a high level of prosperity for some years to come. The proprietors have shaken off part of their heavy load of debt, and take a more energetic interest in the cultivation of their lands.

Apart from the cultivation of the coconut, which is the backbone of the Colony, and of vanilla, which provides pocket money, the best of the farmers have plantations of rubber, ylang ylang—among new products—as well as coffee and cacao. Sugar must also be cultivated to supply the new rum distillery, and attempts are being made to utilise the bark on the cinnamon trees. Furthermore, the exploitation of the outlying islands has progressed most hopefully, for, apart from guano, the plantations of coconut are being extended, and the harvesting of mangrove bark is taken seriously in hand.

62. Mr. A. Carnegie, the philanthropist, has presented a sum of £1,750 for the establishment of a free public library at Victoria.

W. E. Davidson,

4th May, 1908. Governor.

ANNEXURE.

REPORT BY THE CURATOR OF THE BOTANIC STATION FOR THE YEAR 1907.

General Remarks.

1. The exports during 1907 have reached the record figure of 2¼ millions rupees.

This is three times as much as the value of the exports for 1906, and nearly double that of any one year since 1901. This result is due both to a large crop in coconuts and vanilla, and to the higher prices at which these articles have been sold. The crop of coconuts is more than two millions of nuts in excess of that for 1906, 1905, or 1904.

The crop of vanilla is the highest on record since 1901. The climatic conditions were favourable to each of these crops, to which more attention is also devoted.

2. The exportation of guano is increasing considerably, and exceeds the exportation for 1906 by Rs. 231,651. It is anticipated that the profit from this mineral wealth of the Colony will go far to improve the situation of all classes of the community, and permit the extension of new industries.

3. The labourers when employed on the guano islands earn much higher wages than formerly when they were working on the share system of vanilla plantations. Many of them are strong enough to give two and three times their task in one day and thus save in a short time a small capital.

It is questionable whether the labourers of the Colony are numerous enough to allow the extraction of guano to exceed the figure realised last year (14,500 tons).

For the same reason labour difficulties will have to be faced when the new industries that are being started will have been extended.

Fortunately a large class of labourers dread living in the outlying islands and prefer leading a less profitable life in Mahé. Up to now no difficulty of this kind has been experienced in the preparation of essential oils, in the extraction of mangrove bark, and in rubber planting. Female and children labour is more extensively required for the other new industries that have been recommended, viz., preparation of citrate of lime, cardamom planting, onion cultivation, and sisal fibre manufacture. The last mentioned industry is worth being experimented with in some of the very numerous and large coral islands of the archipelago. Unfortunately there is some difficulty in getting boys and girls working on the estates, owing to all their time being devoted to school work. It would perhaps be more profitable to the Colony to combine school work and field work for the youngsters at least in the neighbourhood of the larger estates of Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue ; otherwise the question of getting new immigrants from India will have to be seriously considered in the near future.

Expenditure, Receipts, Sale of Plants, &c.

4. The total expenditure for the year for the Botanic Station and Crown lands was Rs. 10,610.

The rents of Crown lands exclusive of buildings realised Rs. 16,771.

The produce from Crown lands exclusive of guano amounted to Rs. 9,311.

The sale of guano produced Rs. 37,381.

The receipts from sale of plants, Rs. 1,328.

CONDITION OF GARDEN; STRIKING SPECIES INTRODUCED, PLANTED OUT, FLOWERED, AND FRUITED.

5. Amongst the introduced plants that flowered and fruited for the first time may be mentioned:—1. *Parkia Roxburghii* (shade tree); 2. *Brucea Sumatrana* (medicinal plant); 3. *Casuarina Sumatrana* (ornamental tree); 4. *Hevea Brasiliensis* (Para rubber plant); 5. *Arundo donax* (ornamental bamboo-like weed); 6. *Combretum Coccineum* (ornamental creeper); 7. *Cassia Javanica* (ornamental tree, pink flowers); 8. *Plumeria rubra* (red frangipane); 9. *Cassia marginata* (yellow flowers); 10. *Garcinia Mangostana* (mangosteen).

In the opinion of many, *Cassia Javanica* flowers so freely that it is considered to be more decorative than the flamboyant *Poinciana regia*.

The mangosteen tree in question fruited abundantly at Bel Ombre, producing fruits quite as large and as good as in its native land. It is a tree which was introduced in Seychelles by the Sultan of Perak when he was a political prisoner in 1879. There are two other trees of the same age, which I have come across, one at Government House in unsuitable ground, and the other at Union Vale estate. Four younger trees (three years) are growing at the Botanic Station and at Capucin. Every effort should be made to propagate the plants issued from the new seeds, very few countries being suitable to their growth, and this fruit being rightly considered as one of the best in the world.

It is an improved fruit obtained at a very remote date by the native East Indian gardeners.

6. METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Month.	Dry Bulb.	Wet Bulb.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Rainfall.	No. of Rainy Days.
January	82·2	76·9	87·1	73·6	21·55	21
February	82·7	76·0	87·3	73·9	20·3	13
March	82·2	76·1	90·1	74·2	3·64	8
April	80·1	74 2	89·1	72·2	6·80	18
May...	82·0	77·0	89·1	75·0	9·47	13
June	79·2	75·1	85·0	74·2	0·75	4
July	70·0	75 0	82·0	74·0	4·12	21
August	77·2	72·6	80·3	72·1	1·34	17
September ...	80·0	73·2	83·1	73·0	5·58	8
October	80·0	75·3	86·2	75·0	3·35	12
November	81·9	76·6	88·0	73·1	5·25	10
December	80·9	75·2	80·0	73·0	18·12	21
	80·6	75·2	85·6	73·6	98·30	166

LABORATORY.

7. The following analyses were undertaken for the public during 1907:—

	Samples.
Toddy (fermented coconut flower juice) ...	1
Bacca (fermented cane juice)	5
Rhum (tampered with)	2
Guano	9
Coral	1
Soil	2
Contents of the stomach of a corpse ...	1

The soil analyses from a coconut estate have given the following results:—

	Coarse soil.	Black fine soil.
	1	2
Phosphoric acid	9·60	2·78
Sulphuric acid	0·02	0·07
Potash	0·23	0·02
Lime	0·00	0·12
Oxide of iron and alumina ...	14·30	5·40
Silicates, &c.	75·85	91·61
	100·00	100·00
Nitrogen	0·08	0·36

These soils are both very rich in phosphates, one is deficient in potash, the other in nitrogen, and the two are very poor in lime. Heavy doses of lime and coral sand, which always contain a little nitrogen and a little potash, have been recommended.

The Coconut Industries.

8. The exports of coconut products amounted in 1907 to a declared value of Rs. 771,363, and the production of the plantations for the same period may be divided as follows :—

—	1905.	1906.	1907.
Nuts exported in nature	551,135	381,954	604,560
Nuts converted into oil	9,915,400	7,762,080	1,786,160
„ „ „ copra	2,077,019	5,655,860	13,653,682
„ „ „ soap	2,451,099	1,243,571	1,672,006
„ consumed locally	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
	18,994,653	19,043,465	21,716,408

The manufacture of copra is steadily increasing, to the great benefit of the planters, who sold their nuts last year at an average price of Rs. 3·50. Less than two years ago the price per 100 nuts was below Rs. 2, and went down as low as R. 1·25 in 1905. There are many local firms who have entered into competition for the manufacture of copra, and the industry is now carried on in such way as to ensure the market for nuts being regulated by the price of copra in Marseilles instead of being dependent, as formerly, on the value of the oil in Mauritius, which is in the hands of two firms only. There is more stability in the price paid for nuts, and the value of coconut estates has more than doubled since last year.

9. Unfortunately very little attention is paid to the manuring of the worn-out plantations, the work of only eradicating the disease absorbing as a rule the attention of planters. One planter (Mr. Bergne), however, started experiments in 1906, in simply using 25 kilos. of stable manure and a mixture of 3 kilos. of guano, kainite, salt, and lime per tree, and the results he has obtained warrant the very wise measure of manuring coconut estates on a large scale. Twelve months after manuring, *i.e.*, on the 1st December, 1906, the trees produced a larger crop, and the crop from that time was raised from an average of 31 nuts to an average of 61 nuts one year after (December, 1907).

On a much worn-out coconut estate, a few experiments which I had started in 1906 were, after six months, repeated by the owner on many other parts of the estate. In these experiments, kainite (two cwts.) was used as a source of potash, guano (four cwts.) as a source of phosphoric acid, and velvet beans as a source of nitrogen.

The velvet beans grow very well in the coral ground and possess the advantage of being an annual, thus doing very little damage when allowed to climb over the coconut trees when they have not been dug in due time.

There are few industries in the tropics which give a better result than coconut planting, and for this reason I think that in well established plantations, when the soil is not very poor, heavy manuring with double the quantity above referred to should be experimented with.

On the other hand in localities where the soil is stiff and washed out, I do not think it would pay to manure even very heavily.

The Vanilla Industry.

10. The crop of the year under review was above the average and reached 66½ tons. It is the largest crop on record since 1904 and largely compensated for last year's crop, which amounted to 20 tons only. The average price realised may be put down as having been Rs. 7 per lb. but, at the beginning of the crop much higher prices were anticipated, and many merchants who were under that impression paid as much as Rs. 4 and 5 per 100 green pods and did not make a good bargain. The prices obtained on the London market were lower than those realised locally at the hands of the agents of French firms, especially regarding good sized beans, which as a rule realised about 50 per cent. more on the French than on the English market.

Short vanilla on the other hand fetched a much higher price on the London market, where there seems to exist a very small difference in value between short and long beans, whilst good long beans on the Continent are occasionally worth 3 or 4 times the small and inferior beans. A little less than half the crop was sold in London and the rest in France, Germany, and Switzerland, the French market absorbing as much as the English market.

11. The high prices realised in 1907 gave an impetus to vanilla planting and many old plantations which had been neglected for the last two years have been put in order. With such a capricious plant as vanilla, which is more dependent on climatic conditions than on cultural treatment, and with the market prices which fluctuate so widely, the efforts made by planters in a given year, when the prices are high, are not always compensated for in the following years when the market may be depressed. According to the well-known French expert, Mr. Maurice Simon, the crops for Mexico, Madagascar, and the Comoros are increasing enormously every year and glutting the market. In 1901, Mr. Simon estimated at 263 tons the world's production, with 30 tons for Mexico and nothing for Madagascar and the Comoros. In 1907–08 the figures given are 515 tons for the total production; the crops for Mexico, Madagascar and Comoros being 395 tons or 77 per cent. of the world's production.

These figures show that the output from these countries determines the market prices, and that countries like Seychelles only periodically benefit by high prices, that is, when any part of Madagascar, the Comoros, and Bourbon crops have been destroyed by hurricanes. For this reason it seems that the efforts made by some planters at intervals are unsafe and made in vain. As plantations that are overgrown with weeds and bushes and which are not properly propped and pruned fail to flower normally, weather permitting, and as the majority of flowers appear on that part of the vines which is two years old, it seems safer not to allow plantations to become neglected and to stick to a more limited number of vines properly cultivated throughout the good and bad periods of time without distinction. In other words it seems wise to limit the vanilla plantations in Seychelles to those parts of the mountain districts which are unsuitable to the safer planting of coconuts and rubber. The policy of having mixed plantations of vanilla and coconuts which may have been useful when the price of vanilla was as high as Rs. 25 per pound and that for coconuts as low as Rs. 1·25 per 100 nuts, should no longer be adopted. It was detrimental both to the vanilla and to the coconut trees, but principally to the latter, because the plants used as props for vanilla became tall trees in a short time and outgrew the palms, after having brought in insect diseases of all sorts which destroyed many a coconut grove in Seychelles.

The crop for 1908 is very poor, the weather having been much too dry from February to September to develop a normal flowering and also to allow the vines that had flowered abundantly the year before to produce a new crop. A few flowers appeared in September and October, and until February, 1908, the vines were seen flowering very irregularly and at intervals. If the flowers that appeared in September and October have not been disturbed by showers, those which were pollinated in November and December, January, and February will produce pods that are liable to damp off as usual owing to the rains which commenced in December.

12. The irregularity in the flowering has this year caused a delay in obtaining the results from the experimental fields, which have been extended in October last, and which now consist of the following basins :

No. 1. Kainit and nitrogen.		Planted October, 1905.
No. 2. Coral and guano.		
No. 3. Coral.		
No. 4. Kainit, coral, and guano.		
No. 5. Kainit.		
No. 6. Coral and nitrogen.		
No. 7. Kainit, coral, and guano.		
No. 8. Kainit, coral, guano, and nitrogen.		
No. 9. Kainit, coral, guano, and nitrogen.		
No. 10. Kainit, coral, and guano.		
No. 11. Kainit and guano.		
No. 12. Nitrogen.		
No. 13. Guano and nitrogen.		
No. 14. Guano and kainit.		
No. 15. Guano.		
No. 16. No manure.		
No. 17. No manure.		
No. 18. Guano.		
No. 19. Guano and kainit.		
No. 20. Coral, guano, kainit, and nitrogen.	Potash Series.	Planted August, 1907.
No. 21. Coral, guano, kainit, and nitrogen.		
No. 22. Coral, guano, and nitrogen.		
No. 23. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, and coral.	Lime Series.	
No. 24. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, and coral.		
No. 25. Guano, kainit, and nitrogen.		
No. 26. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, coral, and manganese.	Manganese Series.	
No. 27. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, coral, and 2 manganese.		
No. 28. Guano, kainit, nitrogen, and coral.		
No. 29. Guano, coral, guano, leaf mould.	Leaf Mould Series.	
No. 30. Guano, coral, guano, and 2 leaf moulds.		
No. 31. Leaf mould alone.		
No. 32. Leaf mould and ammonium nitrate.		
No. 33. Kainit, coral, nitrogen, and guano.	Guano Series.	
No. 34. Kainit, coral, nitrogen, and 2 guano.		
No. 35. Kainit, coral and nitrogen.		
No. 36. Coral, guano, kainit, and ammonium nitrate.		
No. 37. No manure.		

Basins Nos. 36 and 37 are divided into two parts, one of which is under shade, and the other fully exposed to the sun during five hours of the day.

The question of shade was also studied, and as far as results have been obtained, the following figures may serve to point out the importance of the question in vanilla planting. The plants put in the open on tripods or bars in the neighbourhood of tall trees, and with a tuft of grass put as usual on the bent portions of the vines to prevent those parts from being burnt by the sun, have produced in five months 188 grammes weight of shoots per vine.

The vines put in the same position, but with a supplementary shade made of one row of Nephroserma (palm) leaves laid at a foot above the bars, have

produced 502 grammes weight of shoots during the same time. It may be gathered from the experiments, which will be continued, that on the hill districts like "Capucin" the question of shade is too much neglected in most plantations. On the other hand, the absence of established diseases in Seychelles makes it questionable whether it would not be better to cultivate vanilla in small, compact and suitable patches, both regarding shade and soil, than to cultivate this orchid, as it is done at present, on distant trees, which make it difficult to regulate in the same way the conditions of growth.

The experiments will serve to solve the question, and also to settle the point as to whether the manuring of the vines will not make good the irregularity of flowering that occurs in too wet or too dry years. The results obtained so far show that mineral solutions (1 in 10,000) do not injure the vines, but it is too early as yet to anticipate the action on the crop, two years only having elapsed since the first flowering of the vines took place. It was foreseen that mineral solutions would not be injurious, the orchid being grown already very near the sea, where salt water is sprayed very often. At Anse Vaulbert in Praslin one can notice excellent vanilla growing and fruiting under the scævola (Veloutier) bushes that grow on the beach near the high-water mark.

The Essential Oils Industry.

13. The manufacture of essential oils has emerged from the experimental stage, and a modern factory provided with a boiler and a still of 4,000 litres capacity has been put up at Sans Souci. Last year the experiments were conducted in a still of one-fourth that size and water distillation was used. As was anticipated a much finer oil has been obtained this year, and a comparison of the results has shown at the same time that the yield is about one-third higher when steam distillation is used. It seems that when the raw material, leaves or bark, is distilled in presence of water, many mucilaginous and resinous substances are liberated from the vegetable matters by maceration and partly distilled over with the essential oil.

Owing to lower prices for citronella and lemon grass oils (which compare favourably with oils from India and Ceylon), including a drop of 4*d.* per ounce for lemon grass oil, which is about five times more valuable than citronella oil, it was decided this year to make use of cinnamon bushes instead of the above grasses.

14. The Cinnamon, which is the Ceylon species (*Cinnamon Zeylanicum*), gives three different kinds of oil of totally different composition, but after valuation of samples obtained from leaves and also from bark it was decided to start the industry with bark distillation, the oil obtained being five times more valuable. Samples of oil from roots have not yet been prepared, the trees being cut down, but not uprooted, in order to obtain succeeding crops from offshoots from the stumps. As the oil obtained from bark is the most valuable of the three, it is frequently adulterated in certain countries with oil distilled from leaves or from roots.

It is to be hoped that by sticking to pure and genuine oils from bark in Seychelles the product will fetch a good price, approaching that of the oil distilled in Europe from imported chips. This latter oil is worth about Rs. 40 a litre, and samples from Seychelles, obtained by water distillation last year, have fetched as much as Rs. 30 on the Continent. Samples forwarded at the same time to the Imperial Institute were not very favourably reported upon, a lower price having been obtained from a few English firms. It is therefore probable that a certain fluctuation in the price is bound to happen for the Seychelles oil, but at the same time it is hoped that with the improvements in the product obtained from the new factory the industry will be established on a firm footing.

The chips obtained in Seychelles differ very little from those produced in Ceylon. In one case, *i.e.*, in Ceylon, the cinnamon bushes are cultivated and the sticks cut every year to produce quills. These sticks, which are about the size of the thumb, are used when they are straight, but all shoots

of one year or over which have become coarse are considered unfit for quills and turned into chips. These Ceylon chips produce the fine oil worth Rs. 40.

15. In Seychelles, the cinnamon bushes, which have been propagated by birds, especially the pied mynah, for about a century, are found in Mahé from the top of the highest mountains to the sea shore. This plant being very hardy and quite at home in the coarse, gravelly, and lateritic soils of Seychelles, reaches enormous dimensions in many places, especially alongside the rivers and streams, where it out-grows most of the other indigenous plants. The bark, which is at present used in the factory, is derived from those tall trees, some of which are about one foot in diameter and produce as much as 100 lbs. of dry bark. Many cinnamon bushes of more stunted growth, which are used as props for vanilla vines in exposed situations, are not at present utilised, but as vanilla cultivation is gradually abandoned in unsuitable and worn-out spots, the bark from these younger cinnamon bushes will be turned into chips and thus form a material more closely resembling Ceylon chips. There is also a special mode of drying quills and chips in Ceylon besides their being in most cases deprived of the epidermis by scraping before they are cured. They are more carefully handled when dried, first in the shade for two days after one night's fermentation under wet gunny bags and then for two days in the morning sun to complete the curing process. At present in Seychelles the chips are obtained by peeling the rough bark of the tall trees; no scraping is done, and the drying is generally carried out in the sun for three or four days to save time and trouble. In one experiment at Sans Souci the difference in the yield of scraped chips as compared with those of unscraped bark was very slight and scraping was abandoned. Experiments were also carried out with fresh bark and with dried and half dried bark, and the dried bark produced twice as much oil as the fresh bark, the loss in drying the bark keeping the same proportional difference. Oil from dried bark is better flavoured and less pungent to the taste than oil from fresh bark, and the yield was in January, 1908, respectively 9·40 and 9·20 per cent. of the raw material.

The question of yield has something to do probably with the exposure of the bushes and the season during which they are cut. In January the bushes were all ripening their fruits, and we may consider that period of their growth as being that of the least vegetable activity. In March or April they produce a flush of new leaves, and as the essential oils are formed in greater quantity during this period of their growth, it is probable that the yield will increase from May to September. Sometimes a second flush is produced in October, immediately before the flowering, but at that time the bushes regain considerable vegetable activity under the influence of rain, and the yield will probably again be maintained at a maximum until the end of the year. These periods of vegetable activity are well known in Ceylon and the preparation of quills is only started there three weeks after the advent of the wet season, when the rains have brought a flush of new leaves in May or November at the turn of each monsoon.

The stems, as already stated, produce as much as 100 lbs. of dry bark when the trees are very tall, but the average tree will not produce more than 20 lbs. of dry bark without counting the small branches and twigs, which contain the essential oil in just the same proportion. At present only the wild cinnamon are utilised, but if the industry allows of a margin of profit in future, there is no reason why the natural dispersion of the seeds should not be increased or supplemented by broadcasting them in those regions which have become unsuited to more profitable cultivation. In the present conditions there is enough bark for a single factory to work for some time, and when the trees are cut down the new shoots after a year or two could in their turn be utilised and afford enough material to keep the sole factory going on indefinitely. If other factories are started then cinnamon planting should be developed.

16. Samples of oil from clove leaves were also submitted to the Institute for valuation; but the price offered for oil from cinnamon bark is much

higher (four times) and it is very likely that the number of clove trees grown in this Colony is not sufficient to permit an industry being started on a firm footing unless more trees are planted in the near future.

Clove trees grow well in Seychelles, especially in red laterite soils, when the other trees do not do as well. When the cinnamon leaves will be utilised for oil extraction the clove leaves from trees already existing might also be made use of and distilled at the same time or on alternate days, the oil from either leaf being of very similar composition and possessing so much the same odour as to make it difficult to distinguish between them.

The cinnamon and clove trees which have reached a large size and which begin to die off in some places should be exploited without delay because there are few places in the world where these trees are allowed to grow wild. It would very likely pay to export their bark and their leaves if there is any difficulty in erecting the necessary stills for the preparation of the essential oils.

The Rubber Enterprise.

17. I have to record this year two more points in favour of this industry. The first Hevea trees planted at Côtes d'Or Estate, Praslin, and at the Botanic Station and aged 5 years and 4 years 8 months respectively in December, 1907, have flowered and fruited for the first time. The flowers appeared in September and the fruits ripened in January. A second flowering is said to be taking place at present (March) on two trees at Côtes d'Or which are planted in deep alluvial soil; and 14 fruits only have ripened at Côtes d'Or as yet, 8 at the Botanic Station, and the total number of trees that have fruited are 6 and 3 respectively. I consider this successful fruiting of the Para rubber tree within five years as an indication of the suitability of the soil and climate of Seychelles to this plant, which does not flower at an earlier age in Ceylon and in the Amazon Valley. Only those plants that have been looked after have flowered, whilst many plants (over 1,000) of the same age which are growing on other estates might also come into bearing in the near future. The consequence of this flowering cannot be too much emphasized as it prepares the way for the rational rubber planting in Seychelles. I do not think that the ordinary planter will care to plant rubber unless seeds are obtained locally. The planters that have introduced seeds from Ceylon this year have very dearly paid for their praiseworthy initiative. Out of 200,000 seeds received during the season, only a couple of hundreds of plants have been raised. This is sufficient argument against the industry being taken up by small cultivators at present. The seeds obtained at the Botanic Station weighed 4 grammes each and were of very good size. They have the same weight in Ceylon.

The second point in favour of the Para rubber industry which is worth being recorded is the successful tapping of the larger trees. A group of 6 trees aged 5 years and measuring 18 inches at 3 feet from the ground have given the following results (these trees measured 14 inches last year): 28 days' tapping produced 1,334 c.c. latex, out of which 447 grammes of dry rubber were obtained or 33 per cent. of the latex. The quantity of latex per diem varied from 4 c.c. to 12 c.c. per tree, but the wound response was not evident in tapping these young trees. No trees of the same age in Ceylon and Perak are reported to have yielded a greater quantity of latex. The tapping was made at the base of the stems up to 3 feet high and with Northway Bowman's knives. No difficulty was experienced by tapping with these knives, which are easily managed by an ordinary Seychelles boy after a few minutes' practice. The double spiral was used after a trial of the herring-bone and gamma systems, which do not allow the latex to flow so easily.

The yield of the young trees is satisfactory, the wounds after 28 days' tapping being less than 2 inches wide, and healing after a month's time. There is no doubt that trees of this age would produce an average of ½ lb. per annum in tapping during 100 days only.

It is to be noted that all these trees that have reached at present a tappable size are derived from seeds collected by myself at Heneratgoda and Penang on trees that were known to yield very good rubber in good quantity.

A kind of preliminary selection was made, and it is hoped that in future much care will be given to that question of selection, which should be a prominent question amongst planters. All trees that will not produce rubber in good quantity after two years' tapping should be destroyed, on account of the crossing that will likely interfere with the selection, the rubber plants being monoecious.

Several biscuits have been prepared and look very elastic. They will be sent home for valuation and analysis together with samples from Landolphia vines, *Ficus Elastica*, and *Manihot Glaziovii*.

18. No effort has, as yet, been made to propagate the two last mentioned rubber trees, which are not so suitable to the Colony as the Para rubber. *Ficus Elastica* grows much more slowly and will only grow in rich alluvial soil, whilst *Manihot Glaziovii* on the other hand yields about $\frac{1}{10}$th of the quantity of latex. The two other rubber trees which are growing at the Botanic Station, viz., *Funtumia Elastica*, and *Castilloa Elastica* have not yet reached the tapping size, being about 6 to 10 inches circumference at 3 feet from the ground after four years' growth. This is insufficient growth as compared with *Hevea Brasiliensis*, of which the largest measure 20 inches in the same soil. Further, both *Castilloa* and *Funtumia* suffer much more than Hevea from insect and fungus pests and are consequently not so hardy; *Funtumia Elastica* is, however, more promising than *Castilloa*.

19. Amongst other rubber plants of less importance it has been decided to propagate two rubber creepers from Madagascar, *Cryptostegia Madagascariensis* and *Landolphia Madagascariensis*, which produce respectively the Lombiro and Pinki rose rubber of commerce. Seeds of Lombiro rubber were obtained from Mauritius, and seeds of Landolphia from Union Vale Estate, where a few plants introduced in 1902 have fruited this year. As many as 5,000 plants of the latter variety were distributed during the year, and planted out in the upper parts of Val Riche Estate. These plants are doing well on the sea shore in places where they are shaded and have a loose soil; a dense shade of Bois Noir (*Albizzia Lebbek*) and Jak trees (*Artocarpus integrifolia*) is very suitable, while in light shade and stiff soil it makes very slow growth. Above 500 feet the question of shade is of less importance, and provided the soil is loose, the young seedling will stand successfully full exposure to the sun, and would even grow on rocks. There is a lack of uniformity in the flowers and leaves of the *Landolphia* creepers from Madagascar, where some of them are said not to flower very often and even not at all. It is worth while recording that a few plants at Union Vale Estate fruit much more abundantly than others, that 22 out of 60 plants have fruited and that two dozen fruits have given about 3,000 seedlings. The species introduced is very similar (except in the dimensions of leaves and flowers) to *Vahea Madagascariensis*, Baj., described in Jumolle "Les Plantes à Caoutchouc et à gutta dans les Colonies Françaises, 1898." There are however so many plants known under the same name in Madagascar and not yet identified that the exact name of the introduced plant had better be reserved. It is probably issued from the variety of Landolphia known in Madagascar as "Mandriannambo" and described in the "Bulletin Economique de Madagascar, 1903."

The owners of Union Vale Estate very kindly placed at our disposal three of the plants which were considered of sufficient size to be tapped in January, 1908. They had reached over 15 yards in length, and projected over the tops of the tallest trees. Each of them was detached from the prop, and all branches were removed from the main stems and set apart except those branches which were less than one-third of an inch in diameter. It is no easy matter to remove a creeper of such dimensions from the crown of a tall tree, and a man would probably not remove more than two such creepers in one day. The creepers were then cut into small sections of three to four feet in length, which were placed with the lower ends downwards on a "farafara" to allow the latex to flow. It is impossible to tap these rubber plants by cutting into the bark periodically, owing to the diameter not exceeding two inches, their enormous length, and their position on more or less inaccessible trees. They have to be cut down at about five to ten

inches above ground to allow suckers to sprout again for the next crop These suckers appear on the axils of the scars left by the first leaves, and on the roots, and take five to six years to reach in their turn a tappable size. One creeper alone produced a sufficient number of portions of stems to fill up the "farafara," which is composed simply of a trough three feet long, make of a split giant bamboo, or any tree bark, and of a wooden trellis work made of rough bars, which support the trough. The portions of stems have all slanting cuts, and are placed on their extremities inside the trough, the trellis work being a little inclined in such a way as to allow the sections of stems to stand by themselves. The trough also slopes a little towards the soil, where a receptacle, also made of a bamboo joint, is placed to receive the latex. It is necessary to avoid bruising the stems with a blunt knife, as the bark unless cut sharply does not allow the latex to ooze out. After five minutes the latex stops flowing, and then the stems are shortened by one-third and again placed in the same position on the "farafara." The remaining portions after five minutes are again cut into two parts, and replaced for the third time in the required position for the collecting of the latex. The various small portions of the stems, after yielding their latex, are set aside and then peeled.

Peeling is very quickly done by means of a wooden mallet, and the bark is then dried in the shade for a week or a fortnight. It is obvious that very little latex is obtained from the portions of the stems placed on the "farafara," coagulation taking place immediately on the cuts, and preventing the laticiferous vessels from being drained properly. The bark, which still contains latex in great quantity, has to be peeled and pounded separately. A machine has been invented to pound the bark mechanically, but in our experiments we found no difficulty in pounding the dried bark in the wooden mortar which is generally used for rice pounding. The elasticity and resiliency of the rubber from these creepers make the separation by pounding very easy and rapid. The pieces of bark are removed from the globules of rubber, which are readily amalgamated. The bark was first roughly pounded and sifted in a 1-mm. mesh sieve and then the crude rubber was replaced in the mortar after having been soaked and washed in hot water.

This soaking helps considerably in removing the last particles of the bark without leaving any rubber residue, the latter being amalgamated into one clean lump. Of course this process of pounding the bark in a wooden mortar is slow and cannot be utilised for rubber extraction on a large scale. The sifted particles of bark make a decoction containing five to seven per cent. of tannin, according to Mr. Thiry of Madagascar, and may be considered as a by-product of some value in out of the way places.

The following figures show the results obtained in our experiments :—

CREEPER No. I.

—	Total length.	Average circumference at the bases.	Average circumference at the ends.	Weight of all stems.	Latex obtained in tapping.	Weight of bark.	Percentage of bark.	Rubber on tapping.	Rubber on pounding.	Total rubber.
3 principal stems ..	37 ft.	4 ins.	2 ins.	27 kilos.	445 c.c.	8·250 kilos.	35·5	35	220 grams.	255 grams.
7 secondary stems ..	43 „	2½ „	1½ „							
	Percentage of rubber in latex, 8 per cent. Percentage of rubber in bark, 3 per cent.									
CREEPER No. II.										
4 principal stems ..	57 ft.	4 ins.	2½ ins.	34·500 kilos.	·870	15·00	43·4	35	260	295
6 secondary stems ..	47 „	2½ „	1½ „							
	Percentage of rubber in latex, 4 per cent. Percentage of rubber in bark, 2 per cent.									

The above figures go to show that the *Landolphia* creepers deserve a better place in tropical plantations than that which they have hitherto occupied; especially in mountainous countries where cultivated areas are sparsely distributed leaving intermediate zones which are considered too rocky for ordinary cultivation.

This is the case in Seychelles, where many mountain slopes and worn-out estates might with advantage be devoted to the culture of *Vahea* rubber.

It is very curious to note in the above figures the great percentage of bark obtained from the stems. This is not the case with other plants which yield useful barks, and is worth being recorded. The plants experimented with were only five years old, and have yielded above 40 per cent. of bark. Another deduction from the above figures is the poor yield of latex per vine and the very small percentage of rubber contained in the latex. It is evident that along with the latex a great amount of sap exudes when the portions of stems are placed on the "farafara," and that rubber extraction by pounding is the only practical way of obtaining rubber from that plant.

Mr. Thiry, of Madagascar, who has studied these plants carefully, gives preference to them over the other trees introduced into Madagascar, including *Hevea*. A yield of about ½ a pound per vine, which we obtained after five years growth in Seychelles, places the *Landolphia* creepers above Ceara rubber, but *Hevea Brasiliensis* and *Castilloa Elastica* have shown better results in Ceylon, the Straits, and Mexico. It is generally said that a tree is tapped yearly and gives a yearly product, whilst the *Landolphia* creepers have to be cut down, and a second crop is obtained only five years after. This is a serious argument against rubber vines, but we are only considering the mountainous zones which have to be kept wooded for sanitary purposes, and where tree planting is considered too expensive to be worth while being carried out with success. In these zones *Hevea* and *Castilloa* would be much more expensive to cultivate, and have not hitherto been experimented with. Further, rubber from young *Hevea* has been obtained only since a few years, and no definite information can as yet be obtained regarding the quantity of rubber removed from a tree during a long period of time. The figures given in Ceylon tend to show that the quality of the latex is impaired by tapping every year, and it is probable that triennial or periodical tappings will in future be adopted, thus narrowing the great difference of yield between trees and creepers for a given period of time. There is another point to which the attention of planters has been called by Mr. Thiry; it is the variation, as shown also in our figures, in the yield of latex and rubber from individual vines. It would be quite possible to take advantage of this variation in selecting plants for propagation. The *Vahea* creepers grow very easily from cuttings, and a whole creeper five years old, with the exception of its tender extremities, might be used to make cuttings, which sprout very easily in alluvial soil. By certain improved methods even the small twigs might be used as cuttings, but leaving these aside, at least 100 cuttings might be obtained from a single creeper. In Madagascar the seeds are not easily obtainable, and it is probable that the climate of that Colony, together with the methods of harvesting have something to do with the frequent occurrence of the fruitless varieties.

It is very likely that the calm, moist, and warm climate of Seychelles induces the same plant to fruit more freely, and there is therefore no question of the difficulties which would stand in the way of propagating good varieties. When one sees the compact heads of the creepers projecting above the supporting trees, one is struck by the limited space which is required by this plant. As many as 200 can easily be planted to the acre. Taking only 150 and allowing a yield of ½ lb. per tree in five years it would be worth while planting large areas, of which portions would be utilised every year in order to obtain a yearly product, one-fifth of the plantation being worked out at a time. A crop of 75 lbs. of rubber at 2*s*. per lb. is not to be neglected in mountainous districts which have no chance of being opened properly.

The rubber obtained from the latex and also by pounding the bark possessed the characteristic pink colour and will be sent to the Imperial Institute for analysis and valuation.

Resources of the Outlying Islands.

20. The following articles were exported in 1907 from the outlying islands :—

Guano	Tons	14,571	Rs. 395,630
Mangrove bark	Kilos.	66,167	„ 3,049
Calipee	„	11,208	„ 8,072
Salted fish	„	16,410	„ 2,776
Cahouanne (green turtle shells) ...	„	759	„ 380
Tortoise shell	„	734	„ 30,974
Trepang	„	2,351	„ 1,000

Guano extraction and exportation is increasing considerably and affording employment to labourers of the Colony.

21. The question of the exportation of mangrove and other barks from Aldabra received in 1907 the attention of Professor Dunstan, who forwarded the following report in January, 1908 :—

Sample.	Percentage of tannin
Rhizophora mucronata (Manglier hauban)—	
Root bark from old trees	33·90
Stem „ „ „	35·04
Branch „ „ „	34·50
Scrapings from old stem bark	6·27
Root bark from young trees	17·77
Stem „ „ „	29·71
Branch „ „ „	25·50
Brughiera gymnorhiza (Grand manglier rouge)—	
Bark from stem	45·04
„ branch	41·76
Scrapings from branch bark	7·50
Ceriops Candolleana (Manglier jaune)—	
Bark from stem	35·00
„ branch	34·82
Scrapings from stem bark	14·50
„ „ branch bark	13·23
Avicennia officinalis (Manglier blanc)—	
Bark from stem	3·50
Pemphis acidula (Bois d'amandes)—	
Bark from stem	42·54
Scrapings from stem bark	3·50

Subjoined is an abstract of Professor Dunstan's report as issued in the Gazette :—

"Bark containing 38 to 40 per cent. of tannin can be sold on the London market at prices from £3 15*s.* and upwards, but bark below these standards is not saleable. Machinery can be obtained at no great cost for the preparation of extract ; extract containing 69 per cent. is worth £11 per ton.

"The results obtained from *Brughiera* and *Pemphis* are satisfactory.

"The results from *Rhizophora* and *Ceriops* are both disappointing. The percentage sometimes obtained from *Rhizophora* on the East African Coast ranges up to 48 per cent.

"The bark from old trees is much richer than the bark from young trees and is also more easy to harvest ; the bark of the stem is the richest, and the bark of the branches is rather richer than the bark of the roots.

"The removal of the outer bark by scraping permits of a higher percentage in all cases."

22. The exportation of calipee, green turtle shell, trepang, and salted fish might be increased, but the preparation of these articles leaves only a small margin of profit, except the manufacture of salted fish, which deserves a better place in the list of exports.

23. Mr. Stanley Gardiner, F.R.S., in the report of the Percy Sladen Expedition, calls the attention of the inhabitants of Seychelles to another organism of possible commercial value—the black-lipped oyster, the shells of which are largely used for buttons and inlay work. The oysters are common in the lagoons of Farquhar, St. François, possibly Alphonse, Des Roches, &c., and the question of establishing an industry depends on the possibility of providing artificial areas for spawning. Rays are the chief enemies of the organism, which must have patches free from grass-like weeds (*Cymodocea*) so as to attach itself to the ground. In shallow lagoons it would not be difficult to eradicate the green grass-like weeds, but the question is more difficult to deal with in deep lagoons. In this case, however, the artificial cultivation of the oyster might be carried on by taking large spawning shells into the barachois of some of the islands and keeping them there surrounded by hurdles, on which the spat might affix itself, in much the same way as the artificial cultivation of sponges is carried on.

24. *Sponges.*—These organisms have been found in many places by Professor Gardiner. In fact, near most islands visited by the latter, there is scarcely any spot where, in dredging at the right depth, sponges have not been found. Even around the edge of the Mahé banks at 34 to 44 fathoms life was found to be very active and sponges were obtained in five consecutive hauls.

Pamphlets obtained from the Colonial Office describing the methods of fishing sponges off Cuba and Florida were circulated amongst members of the Agricultural Board and then handed over to the firms interested in the outlying islands. Samples of Bahamas grass sponge, Bahamas reef sponge, Cuban velvet sponge, and Florida rock island sheep's wool sponge were also received and compared with specimens collected on the beach at Astove, Marie Louise, and Des Neufs Islands. These two articles, black-lipped oysters and sponges, might eventually be added to the list of exports as soon as communication with the outlying islands will have been regularly established.

25. Amongst other resources of the outlying islands, a special mention might also be made of a rubber plant that grows wild at St. Pierre, Astove, Assumption, Cosmoledo, and Aldabra, and which covers at least 10,000 acres of rocky ground. In some places where the soil is rich this plant (*Euphorbia Abbottii*) reaches a diameter of 8 to 10 inches and a height of 30 feet, but in most places it is a shrub of much smaller dimensions. On being tapped a latex flows rapidly out, and even out of the extremities of the branches one can collect a litre of latex from a tree in a few minutes.

In 1905 when I visited St. Pierre for the first time, I collected this latex which I found, after coagulation by heat and by acetic acid, to be deprived of elasticity. It contains apparently a very high percentage of resin, but this latex could perhaps be treated in the same way as the latex from *Euphorbia fulva* of Mexico from which both rubber and resin have been separated into commercial form by Professor Lozano (Kew Bulletin No. 7 of 1907).

Destruction of Insect Pests.

26. In my report for 1906, I gave a list of scale insects and mealy bugs which attacked nearly all plants grown in Seychelles. The following additional plant lice have this year been kindly identified by Mr. E. E. Green, and the list is not yet exhausted :—

1. *Icerya Seychellarum*	...	On Casuarina, Amirantes, Seychelles.
,, ,, ...	...	On Musa, Seychelles.
,, ,, ...	...	On Citrus, Seychelles.
,, ,, ...	...	On Scaevola Koenigii, Amirantes.
,, ,, ...	...	On Cocos mucifera, Amirantes.
,, ,, ...	...	On Pithecolobium, Boehmeria.
,, ,, ...	..	On Bixa, Wormia, Punica, Seychelles.

2.	*Dactylopius citri*	On Scaevola Koenigii, Farquhar.
	" "	On Morinda citrifolia, Amirantes.
	" "	On Desmanthus, Aldabra.
3.	*Pulvinaria Psidii*	On Pisonia macrophylla, Farquhar.
	" "	On Chrysophyllum, Seychelles.
	" "	On Tomato, Astove.
	" "	On Pisonia, St. Pierre.
	" "	On Pisonia, Providence.
4.	*Pulvinaria antigoni*	On Antigonon, Seychelles.
5.	*Cerophastes floridensis* ...	On undetermined plant, St. Anne.
6.	*Cerophastes ternutectus sp.nov.*	On " Bois la fumée," Aldabra.
7.	*Vinsonia Stellifera*	On Chrysophyllum, Seychelles.
	" "	On Achras, Seychelles.
	" "	On Palaqium, Seychelles.
8.	*Lecanium oleae*	On Ficus indica, Amirantes.
	" "	On Schmidelia, Adalbra.
9.	*Lecanium nigrum*	On Jacaranda minosaefolia, Seychelles
	" "	On Hibiscus, Seychelles.
10.	*Lecanium Hesperidum* ...	On Cassia siamea, Seychelles.
	" " ...	Rubiaceæ, Aldabra.
11.	*Lecanium tessellatum* ...	On Scævola, Farquhar.
	" " ...	On Achras, Seychelles.
	" " ...	On Coffea Liberica, Seychelles.
	" " ...	On Chrysophyllum, Seychelles.
	" " ...	On Cocos mucifera, Farquhar.
12.	*Lecanium longulum* ...	On Anona squamosa, Seychelles.
13.	*Lecanium frontale*	On Casuarina, Seychelles.
14.	*Chionaspis inday*	On areca nut, Seychelles.
	" "	On coconut, Seychelles.
15.	*Hemichionaspis minor* ...	On cotton, Cargados, Seychelles.
	" " ...	On Hibiscus, Seychelles.
16.	*Hemichionaspis aspidistræ*...	On Hiliconia, Seychelles.
17.	*Diaspis pentagona*	On Carica Papaya, Seychelles.
18.	*Aspidiotus cammelliæ* ...	On Indigofera, Seychelles.
19.	*Aspidiotus ficus*	On Citrus, Seychelles.
	" "	On roses, Seychelles.
20.	*Aspidiotus lataniæ*	On Vitis, Seychelles.
	" "	On Ficus indica, Seychelles.
21.	*Mytilaspis citricola*... ...	On all citrus trees, Seychelles.
22.	*Mytilaspis auriculata* ...	On Croton, Seychelles.
23.	*Mytilaspis ocellata*	On Davallia, Seychelles.
24.	*Chronaspis dilatata*... ...	On coconut, Seychelles.

27. A very large increase in the number of each species of these insects is again recorded this year. This has been brought about by a proportional increase in the number of ants which live in association with the *hemiptera*. The time is come for an effort for destroying these insects and their commensals, but, unless measures of destruction are adopted everywhere and at the same time, it will be necessary to pass an Ordinance to enforce common action. In reading the above list of insects one is struck by their very widespread prevalence. Their presence in many parts of the world where they have been successfully combated is a safeguard for the success of the destructive measures which should be adopted :

(1) By introducing lady-bird beetles. In Hawaii, great success has attended the introduction of predacious insects. Lady-bird beetles, such as (*a*) Morius Cardinalis, have destroyed *Icerya purchasi* on Citrus trees ; (*b*) *Cryptoloemus Montrouzier* proved very useful against *Pulvinaria psidii* which attacks coffee, and both these plant lice or very nearly allied species are found in Seychelles.

The public are always inclined to dread the introduction of insects and animals from one country to another, bearing in mind the importation of the rabbit in Australia and of the mongoose into the West Indies. The

introduction of insects is quite a different thing, because predatory insects are always predatory upon other insects and not destructive to agriculture.

We have in Seychelles five different species of lady-bird beetles, but they do their work very seldom owing to their preferring particular growths amongst the great variety of plants that are found on the same plot of ground. They are naturally very sparsely distributed, and it is only occasionally that one comes across them in large colonies. A small reddish beetle and a small black one are the two parasites that are commonly seen attacking respectively: *Icerya* and *Diaspis* coccids, and, when they find a good spot (shaded and cool) they are intensely destructive to plant lice as one can judge by their number and the dead bodies of their victims.

But all trees that are being destroyed by the plant lice are not visited by these beetles, and attempts are being made at the Botanic Station to breed and propagate them more thoroughly. The foregoing remarks go to show that the introduction of lady-bird beetles is a measure that should be recommended to the planters, although there will be some difficulty in getting them from Australia or Hawaii, where they are to be found in large colonies.

28. This measure would, however, not be sufficient, because many scale insects, for example: *Aspidiotus*, *Mytilaspis*, *Lecanium*, &c., escape the attacks of the beetles and should be destroyed by insecticides and by burning those plants which are on the verge of succumbing and by burning damaged portions of plants where the insects congregate.

In burning, however, care should be taken not to destroy the natural parasites (lady-birds) which should be removed to other trees as much as possible beforehand. It is to be noted that only those parts of the plants that are weakened by age or insufficiency of food are those that are as a rule liable to the attacks of plant lice.

Therefore, the destruction by fire of these parts will not be detrimental to the vigour of the trees under treatment. The lady-bird beetles themselves have no parasite that we have come across (*Hymenoptera*).

29. The best remedies in the case of insects that are not got rid of by natural parasites, and which live on plants which cannot be destroyed by fire, would be to adopt insecticides. Besides petroleum emulsion which gives such a good result on the soft bodies of mealy bugs the soda resin solution give very good results in destroying the other scale insects. The soda resin solution (3 lbs. soda, 4 lbs. of resin dissolved by heating slowly in two gallons of water and diluted five times before employment) is very efficacious in depositing a film or crust on the surface of the animals which are at once suffocated. The same solution kills out the ants in a few seconds in the same way.

30. A process which I have adopted for the destruction of both insects is the following: a piece of rag is wound round the stems of the trees that have just been sprayed, and every two days this is soaked in a solution of petroleum and soap. The ants that live in association with the scale insects are prevented by the soap solution from climbing up the trees, and congregate near the rag where they are sprayed over with the resin solution. The destruction processess should be combined on the same estate, and special attention should be paid to the destruction of ants. Ordinary methods will not do for the destruction of the latter, because these make their nest anywhere on the trees even between two leaves if they do not find a more convenient place. But sulphur and arsenic fumes applied by means of the ant exterminator might suffice in some cases, especially in skilful hands. An easy method is to soak in petroleum a bit of rag tied to a stick, light it, and burn it in the track of the ants, which are commonly seen in long processions everywhere.

After heavy showers of rain the number of ants that die is enormous and for this reason their destruction should be carried out periodically. During the dry season their destruction is more difficult, and the plants that

are being attacked should be treated more carefully at that time owing to the insecticides being sometimes corrosive when not properly mixed. The question of destroying the ants entirely is not contemplated, even if it were possible, because these insects play a certain part in the tropics which should not be lost sight of. They are very good scavengers, not only by removing dead animal matter, but also by sucking out all the noxious liquids so liable to putrefaction that are derived from animal and vegetable matters. It is interesting to see the number of ants that swarm in the guano islands, where so much animal matter is being decomposed. For this reason the ants' commensals, *i.e.*, the coccids which are so much complained of in Mahé are quite as common in the outlying islands as they are in the more inhabited places.

It is said that the small black ant, which increases in Mahé, has been introduced from Ceylon together with the Para rubber plants. I have sent to Ceylon and to England the insects in question for identification, although I do not think that they have been introduced. I have found them in out of the way localities, and on islands where rubber has not been introduced.

There are many other ants of very nearly allied species, that swarm everywhere in Seychelles and live in symbiosis with the coccids. In Praslin the ants in question are of reddish coloration, and many spots in Mahé are invaded by a black and red ant and by another very small black ant that help just the same in the propagation of coccids.

R. DUPONT,
Curator, Botanic Station.

Mahé,
20th April, 1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	„
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
539	Leeward Islands	„
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	„
544	Barbados	„
545	Trinidad and Tobago	„
546	Grenada	„
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	„
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	„
551	Northern Nigeria	„
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	„
557	East Africa Protectorate	„
558	Uganda Protectorate	„
559	Swaziland	„
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	„
562	Falkland Islands	„
563	Gibraltar	„
564	Ashanti	„
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
47	Do. do.	Do. 1905–6.
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 606.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 567.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1909.

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No. 606.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 567.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Seychelles,
1st June, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit my report on the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1908.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Crewe, K.G,
&c., &c., &c.

(13852—2.) Wt. 26122—322. 1125. 7/09. D & S.

REPORT ON THE SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1908.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue and Expenditure.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1908 amounted to Rs. 473,836, short of the estimate by Rs. 17,024. Taxation was reduced to the amount of Rs. 11,000.

2. The expenditure of the Colony in 1908 amounted to Rs. 465,753, representing under the Estimates a saving of Rs. 11,935. The expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary was Rs. 65,038. The normal expenditure is about Rs. 400,000.

The actual revenue in 1908 exceeded the actual expenditure by Rs. 8,083.

The revenue for 1909 has been estimated at Rs. 503,570 and the expenditure has been fixed at Rs. 494,413, including an expenditure of Rs. 74,500 on Public Works Extraordinary.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last six years :—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1903	467,668	516,331
1904	383,096	447,939
1905	375,779	393,691
1906	419,932	370,971
1907	501,293	381,029
1908	473,836	465,753

4. The revenue and expenditure of the Local Boards of Health established for the Central District (town of Victoria), for the South Mahé District, and for the Islands of Praslin and La Digue, are now included in the general statements of revenue and expenditure. In terms of Ordinance No. 32 of 1902, the Local Boards have no longer separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. These Boards, constituted under the provisions of Ordinance No. 31 of 1900, are composed of a number of the most prominent persons, unofficial and official, whose interests are identified with those of the respective districts, under nomination by the Governor. Large powers of self-government entrusted to them have been wisely and satisfactorily used.

The votes allocated to the Local Boards in the Estimates for 1908 amounted to Rs. 25,207.

The grants for 1909 have been fixed at Rs. 27,863.

There are no elections to membership of governing bodies. The Governor nominates all members of Public Boards and Committees. There appears no desire to introduce the principle of election. On all questions of general interest, representative persons are consulted by the Government. Committees composed mainly of unofficials are nominated for advice or special issues.

Details of Revenue 1907 *and* 1908.

5. The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1907 and 1908 :—

Head of Receipts.	1907.	1908.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Customs	257,011 15	243,119 22
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues	8,120 40	9,892 24
3. Licences, &c....	56,989 48	61,840 13
4. Taxes...	46,549 13	46,747 41
5. Fees of Court, &c.	32,952 25	23,753 41
6. Post Office	17,206 05	18,351 85
7. Rents of Government Property	17,585 26	17,801 96
8. Interest	9,705 91	11,502 10
9. Miscellaneous	54,413 07	40,702 61
10. Land Sales	760 00	125 00
Total	501,292 70	473,835 93

6. The decrease of Rs. 13,892 in Customs Receipts is due mainly to remission of taxation (Rs. 11,000). The decrease of Rs. 13,710 under the head Miscellaneous is due to the non-payment of a sum of Rs. 15,000 due in December which has since been recovered. The other items show small variations.

Details of Expenditure 1907 *and* 1908.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1907 and 1908 :—

Heads of Service.	1907.	1908.
	Rs. cts.	Rs. cts.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt ...	14,816 25	14,816 25
2. Pensions and Gratuities	14,090 78	12,999 14
3. Governor and Legislature	25,276 76	25,776 19
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department.	20,683 34	22,627 66
5. Audit Department	6,290 22	6,294 86
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	16,879 11	16,747 48
7. Legal Department	30,588 02	33,757 97
8 Police Department	33,901 77	34,945 17
9. Prison	9,750 69	9,108 25
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	31,568 04	35,039 85
11. Ecclesiastical Department	9,750 00	9,750 00
Carried forward	213,594 98	221,862 82

Heads of Service.	1907.		1908.	
	Rs.	cts.	Rs.	cts.
Brought forward	213,594	98	221,862	82
12. Education Department	27,305	95	28,987	15
13. Printing Department	3,053	98	4,116	89
14. Post Office Department	9,797	10	14,793	99
15. Transport	—		3,139	42
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department.	15,275	42	10,435	90
17. Local Board, Central District	14,404	16	15,278	58
18. Do. South Mahé	3,503	44	4,573	66
19. Do. Praslin	1,579	28	1,733	85
20. Do. La Digue	1,240	47	1,133	67
21. Exchange and Cost of Remittances ...	2,500	77	6,335	44
22. Miscellaneous	15,528	66	9,282	67
23. Telegraphs and Steamer Subsidies ...	43,800	00	51,591	72
24. Public Works Department	9,973	79	10,989	37
25. Do. Recurrent	12,449	64	16,460	61
26. Do. Extraordinary	7,021	39	65,037	56
Total	381,029	33	465,753	30

8. The policy of rigorous retrenchment commenced in 1904 and a revision of the methods of taxation have restored the finances of the Colony. The year 1907 having proved an exceptionally prosperous year for abundance of crops and for high prices, it became possible in 1908 to undertake a number of useful public works which had been prepared for execution as soon as means allowed.

In 1908, an expenditure of Rs. 102,000 was voted for Public Works and the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 81,362. For this sum, a pure and abundant water supply has been brought to Victoria, the distributing tank being 450 feet above the town. This supply of water allows of the closing for drinking purposes of polluted sources and ensures a powerful pressure at the new hydrants in case of a fire in the business quarter. The power obtained may also be applied hereafter to electric lighting.

A lunatic asylum has been built at Anse Royale whose water supply has also been renewed. The Victoria Market has been doubled in area and improvements have been effected on the long pier and at the Customs sheds.

For 1909, expenditure on public works has been voted up to Rs. 92,290, the heaviest item being for lighthouses and aids to navigation.

9. The following table shows the surplus of assets over liabilities from 1904 :—

Year.	Amount. Rs. cts.
1904	160,007·33
1905	141,509·62
1906	175,432·96
1907	292,875·18
1908	311,016·87

The assets are represented by Rs. 150,956·24 in cash and Rs. 231,076·49 in investments, viz., Rs. 154,776·49 in British and Colonial Stock and Rs. 76,300 invested locally at 6 per cent. on the security of first mortgage on real estate, under the provisions of the Loan to Planters Ordinance No. 4 of 1904. Advances due represent Rs. 26,442·73 and remittances in transit Rs. 61,348.

The liabilities are represented by Savings Bank and other deposits (Rs. 158,216·59) and sundry unsettled advances (Rs. 590).

10. The public debt consists of a loan of £20,000 negotiated in 1899, repayable, with interest at 2¾ per cent., in thirty annual instalments of £987 15*s.* 9*d.* (Rs. 14,816·25) of which eight have now been paid. This liability now stands at Rs. 242,126·13.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last six years :—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1903	966,641	1,024,641	825,525	968,325
1904	829,211	905,171	724,187	801,894
1905	789,785	823,452	808,032	848,744
1906	811,366	916,397	794,681	807,781
1907	1,364,787	1,174,412	2,270,520	2,270,820
1908	1,124,691	1,150,741	1,489,125	1,657,175

The declared value of exports is much below that of 1907, but the difference (Rs. 780,000) is practically represented by the decrease (Rs. 732,000) in the value of the vanilla crop. There was a time when so serious a failure would have nearly ruined the proprietors but the backbone of the Colony is now the cultivation of the coconut. Even without a vanilla crop the aggregate value of exports is higher than in any previous year except 1907.

To determine the purchasing power of the consumer, it is necessary to add to the value of imports as declared at the Customs 10 per cent. for freight charges and an average of 10 per cent. by way of import duties, in addition to the profits of the importer and retailer.

Imports.

12. The declared value of imports in 1908 was Rs. 1,124,691, plus specie to the value of Rs. 26,500. Foodstuffs were imported to the value of Rs. 459,122 ; the clothing bill was Rs. 265,842 ;

and the drink bill, as declared at the Customs, Rs. 85,307. The actual expenditure of the consumer in wine and spirits, mainly rum, cannot have been less (including duty) than Rs. 210,000, or fourteen shillings a head..

13. The imports, excluding specie, when classified according to countries of origin, present the following proportions :—

From the United Kingdom, Rs. 389,579 or 36 per cent.

From British Possessions, Rs. 509,373 or 44 per cent.

From Foreign Countries, Rs. 225,739 or 20 per cent.

These proportions very closely correspond with those of 1907.

Of the total, 50 per cent. passed through the Suez Canal.

14. British imports are of a very varied character ; the most important items are cotton goods (Rs. 93,455), ironware (Rs. 66,488), wearing apparel (Rs. 66,009), provisions (Rs. 31,941), machinery (Rs. 28,956). Coal, which is usually over Rs. 30,000, has fallen to Rs. 8,963. Total Rs. 389,579.

From British Possessions the totals are, India, Rs. 390,551 ; mainly rice (Rs. 280,529), cotton goods (Rs. 41,099), flour (Rs. 25,719), and provisions (Rs. 20,853). Mauritius (Rs. 91,252) ; the chief items are sugar (Rs. 46,145) and rum (Rs. 12,390). From Aden, Rs. 21,084 ; viz., coffee (Rs. 16,509) and salt (Rs. 2,194). From other Colonies, Rs. 6,484.

Of foreign goods, the bulk comes from France, Rs. 175,916 ; mainly wine and spirits (Rs. 50,415), and clothing (Rs. 46,820), which are admitted at a reduced tariff. The total from the French Colonies is Rs. 24,357, viz. : Madagascar (Rs. 17,528), Réunion (Rs. 5,329), and Djiboutil (Rs. 1,500), the items respectively being rice and gunny bags, tobacco and sugar, and horses. Germany exports goods valued at Rs. 16,268, of which the chief item is ironware (Rs. 9,582). Other foreign countries, Rs. 10,739, of which the principal are the United States, kerosene oil (Rs. 4,929) ; Holland, tobacco (Rs. 1,666), and Russia, kerosene oil (Rs. 969).

Exports.

15. The declared value of exports in 1908, exclusive of specie, was Rs. 1,489,125, as compared with Rs. 2,230,520 in 1907, and Rs. 794,681 in 1906.

In 1907 the pride of place was occupied by vanilla, which realised nearly a million rupees. In 1908 the declared value was only Rs. 264,485. Copra also fell from Rs. 546,117 to Rs. 392,558. Guano and coconut oil remained steady. But soap shows a great rise from Rs. 83,379 to Rs. 154,643, and tortoiseshell from Rs. 30,974 to Rs. 47,665. The new products of importance are cinnamon bark, Rs. 44,322, and essential oils Rs. 10,295.

The following list enumerates all present resources. The items capable of considerable development are copra, guano, essential oils, mangrove bark. Rubber should begin to yield substantial returns in a few years. Citrate of lime, rum, turtle and whale oil, and preserved eggs may figure in future returns :—

Produce.		Quantity.	Value. Rs.
1. Copra (2)	tons	2,082	392,556
2. Guano (3)...	„	12,670	380,070
3. Vanilla (1)	kilos.	24,773	164,485
4. Soap (5)	tons	424	154,646
5. Coconut oil (4)	hectolitres	3,905	128,534
6. Tortoiseshell (6)	kilos.	1,225	47,665
7. Cinnamon bark (new)	tons	1,202	44,322
8. Coconuts (7)	„	480	14,757
9. Essential oils, &c. (15)	litres	1,458	10,295
10. Calipee (8)	kilos.	5,380	8,155
11. Mangrove bark (10)	tons	692	6,965
12. Cacao (9)...	kilos.	5,380	3,628
13. Coco de mer (13)	nuts	3,830	2,956
14. Coffee (16)	kilos.	2,805	1,493
15. Salted fish (11)	„	4,278	758
16. Shell, miscellaneous	„	1,250	734
17. Fruits, fresh (19)	cases	111	610
18. Cacao seeds (new)	„	1	550
19. Trepang (18)	kilos.	1,430	534
20. Cloves (14)	„	573	269
21. Vacoa mats and bags		2,550	255
22. Limes, salted (17)	barrels	15	212

NOTE.—The figures in brackets denote the order of value in 1907.

16. The vanilla crop was less than half an average in quantity and of poor quality but the prices were fairly well maintained. As gauged by the declarations at the Customs the value of the yield was little more than one-fourth of that of 1907. The average price per kilo. may be put down at Rs. 10·67 as compared with Rs. 15·02 in 1907; the maximum average price per kilo. was Rs. 33·06 in 1900 and the lowest Rs. 5·87 in 1905. Vanilla was the staple product of Seychelles up to 1904 and its value exceeded the aggregate of all other products. But a crop which varies from 17,000 to 66,000 kilos. in consecutive years owing to trifling variations in the sunshine and rainfall, and in price from Rs. 6 to Rs. 15 per kilo. cannot be calculated upon as a staple product. Proprietors still plant and tend their vines, but only as a by-product which may bring much or little pocket money.

17. The coconut crop was worth Rs. 690,490 in sales, besides what is consumed locally, which may be placed at four millions of nuts yearly. Higher cultivation has steadily raised the volume of the crop from 19 million nuts in 1904 to over 23 million nuts in 1908. There is no reason why the out-turn should not rise to 35 or 40 million nuts.

This crop is converted as follows :—

Product.	No. of nuts.	Shipping tons.	Declared value.
			Rs.
Copra	11,463,000	2,082	392,556
Oil	4,285,000	434*	128,534
Soap	2,969,000	424	154,643
Nuts exported...	480,000	480*	14,757
Local consumption	4,000,000	—	—
Total	23,197,000	3,420	690,490

* The shipping ton is reckoned at 9 hectolitres, or 1,000 nuts in bulk.

Prior to 1904, oil and nuts formed the bulk of the exports. Since 1907, copra has become of chief importance. The soap industry began in 1896 and has steadily increased in importance year by year.

18. Guano was exported to the amount of 12,670 tons, as compared with 13,220 tons in 1907. The difficulties of exploiting the phosphate deposits on a coral island without a natural water supply or harbour have been very great and have been admirably surmounted on the Island of St. Pierre by the lessees, the Mahé Syndicate, Limited. This island, which is the property of the Crown, contains large deposits of guano rich in phosphoric acid but lacking nitrates. There are other rich deposits which have not yet been developed.

19. Of the other items scheduled in paragraph 15, tortoiseshell is a variable item. The out-turn in 1906 was as high as 2,754 kilos., valued at Rs. 58,728. In other years the quantity and value have been less than one-third of these figures. The question of the protection and culture of the hawksbill turtle (chelonia imbricata) has received special attention and it is probable that experiments will be undertaken for rearing these turtle in captivity. Calipee is formed from the fins of the edible turtle (chelonia mydas) and is exported to London to be made into turtle soup. Quitouze, the dried and salted meat, is largely consumed locally.

Cinnamon bark figures as a new product. A demand exists for the bark of the cinnamon trees, which grow wild among the mountains. Its quality and price are far inferior to the cultivated cinnamon of Ceylon, but as the trees are self-grown and uncultivated the cost of placing the bark on the market is limited to the collection and freight. Twelve hundred tons were exported in 1908 and further supplies are forthcoming, provided that cheap freight is secured.

The distillation of essences has been taken seriously in hand. Oils have been distilled from cinnamon bark and leaves, from clove leaves, bigarade, lemon grass, and citronella. The market for these essences is capricious, but clove leaf and cinnamon oils have obtained good prices. Plantations have been made of ylang ylang and cardamoms from which essential oils may also be produced.

A rum distillery was working for part of 1908 and 13,000 litres of spirit were produced. There are several difficulties still to be surmounted before this new venture can be established on a commercial basis.

Samples of citrate of lime have been produced yielding 64 per cent. of citric acid.

The plantations of Para rubber made in 1904–6 are most flourishing in appearance. The curator estimates that 25 tons of rubber may be placed on the market in 1911.

Special efforts have been made to develop the salt-fish industry. The banks surrounding the islands swarm with fish. There are also ideal lagoons for the culture of pearl-shell and sponges.

20. Excluding goods in transit and specie, the exports of Seychelles are declared to the value of Rs. 1,469,554, of which Rs. 214,813 (or 15 per cent.) is sent to the United Kingdom, Rs. 250,958 (or 17 per cent.) to British Possessions, and Rs. 1,003,783 (or 66 per cent.) to foreign countries.

21. To the United Kingdom the principal items are vanilla, Rs. 148,030; tortoiseshell, Rs. 31,328; copra, only Rs. 9,344; and cacao, Rs. 2,290.

22. The exports to British Possessions are :—

To India (Rs. 65,098); copra, Rs. 60,581.

To Mauritius (Rs. 139,298); guano, Rs. 57,000; coconut oil, Rs. 51,724; soap, Rs. 21,923; coconuts, Rs. 8,529.

To Zanzibar (Rs. 29,865); soap, Rs. 21,859.

To Aden (Rs. 10,676); coconut oil, Rs. 9,344; and smaller sums to the Cape, Mombassa, Hong Kong, and Ceylon.

23. The exports to France amount to Rs. 537,592, consisting chiefly of copra, Rs. 322,404; vanilla, Rs. 114,655; guano, Rs. 54,000; and tortoiseshell, Rs. 16,337.

To Madagascar (Rs. 14,640); soap, Rs. 102,121; coconut oil, Rs. 43,153. To Réunion (Rs. 14,348); coconut oil, Rs. 11,263. Total for French Possessions, Rs. 699,580.

24. To other foreign countries the total is Rs. 504,203, viz., to Germany (Rs. 217,286): guano, Rs. 192,570; cinnamon bark, Rs. 13,946; mangrove bark, Rs. 6,910.

To Belgium (Rs. 54,000): guano.

To Switzerland (Rs. 1,800): vanilla; and to Holland and Austria, small consignments of cinnamon bark.

To German East Africa Colonies (Rs. 7,993): soap; and to Mozambique (Rs. 22,500): guano, probably for a destination in South Africa.

Total Foreign Countries, Rs. 1,003,783.

(B.) Manufactures.

25. Most estates are equipped with appliances for the production of copra and oil. The copra exported from Seychelles has a high reputation for the excellence of its preparation. The soap-boiling

industry which has an out-turn of over 400 tons is dependent on the local supply of coconut oil; other requisites for the industry are admitted free of duty.

Vanilla is cured and prepared for export on most estates, with varying success. It would be in the general interest if the curing were concentrated in expert hands, in order that the general standard of preparation might be higher. The question of manufacturing the extract locally is under consideration, but it is feared that the co-operation requisite cannot be secured.

A rum distillery has been in operation since 1907.

The distillation of essential oils has been attempted at several centres with considerable success.

26. Engineering works, established in 1905, are being constantly improved and developed; repairs to sailing ships and engine room fittings are undertaken; a steam tug has been constructed in 1908, and motor engines have been fitted into several trading schooners. An ice and soda factory, and a circular saw driven by a motor engine are additions during 1908.

27. The coaling business of the port has advanced in efficiency; recent improvements have led to the handling of 300 to 400 tons in a working day.

28. The machinery installed at St. Pierre permits of the loading of 300 tons of guano a day. There is need of small steamers or motor-driven schooners to maintain speedy and regular communication with the distant islands which have now become industrial centres and from which over 13,000 tons of produce have been shipped direct for Europe.

(C.) Fisheries.

29. All the natives of Seychelles are skilled sailors, and most families on the shore own pirogues—as the small fishing boats are called—and inter-island communication is carried on by means of half-decked sailing boats and whale boats. The more distant islands are served by a steam yacht of 46 tons and a fleet of schooners ranging from 10 to 100 tons.

Fish and green turtle (Chelonia Mydas) take the place of meat, and large quantities are consumed fresh. The banks on which the various archipelagos are situated swarm with fish of many varieties, and recent legislation has removed many restrictions on the trade in salted and dried fish, which might—with more enterprise—be considerably extended. The fisheries for tortoiseshell obtained from the hawksbill turtle (Chelonia imbricata) yielded 1,225 kilos. of shell, valued at Rs. 47,665. Salted fish was exported to the amount of 16,410 kilos. declared at Rs. 2,776. Trepang or bêche de mer was exported to the amount of 1,430 kilos. Samples of chanks and mother-of-pearl shell have been exported for valuation. There are lagoons well suited for shell and sponge culture. Calipee, from the fins of the green turtle was exported to the weight of 7,954 kilos., declared at Rs. 8,155.

(D.) Agriculture and Crown Lands.

30. The Curator of the Botanic Station testifies to a steady improvement in the standard of cultivation of estates, especially of coconuts. The report of the valuers of the properties on which the Government has advanced loans under the Ordinance of 1904 affords interesting details in support of Mr. Dupont's testimony. The present valuation of the estates in this category shows an increase of one-third over the valuations of 1904 and 1905. The vanilla plantations are being well looked after in the hope of a good crop in 1910 or 1911. There are 30,000 to 40,000 Hevea trees well established and many minor products are the subject of experiment.

31. Coconut diseases have been kept down by care on the part of proprietors. But there has been an epidemic of insect pests which has caused much annoyance, although no serious harm has yet resulted. The lime and cacao trees are especially exposed to the attacks of two varieties of lecanium and the lime trees are also injured by a mytilaspis. The black blight or fungus appears mostly on the wild cinnamon and appears to do little damage. But the special trouble is due to the spread of the Icerya Seychellarum,—a white blight—with its companion, a small black ant, myrmex altipes, which has been long known in Seychelles but which has spread remarkedly in the last two years. The injury caused at present is of little importance. Insect sprayers and several effective solutions have been imported to deal with these nuisances; coolies are specially trained at the Botanic Station in the use of the sprayers and the preparation of the solutions, and experimental tours have been made to the North and South Districts of Mahé in which island alone the pests are in evidence.

32. A beginning has been made in the scheme of re-afforestation of the central group of mountains in Mahé and a vote of Rs. 2,000 is provided for plantations on the Crown lands known as Delanos and Le Niol. A scheme is under consideration for the acquisition, by way of exchange or purchase, of the watershed area in this main range, alike for the preservation of the indigenous forest and for the conservation and purity of the water supply. The Administration prior to the cession in 1810 permitted concessions without regard to the reservation of forest on the hill tops and the Crown possesses no reserves except those which have come into its possession by purchase or by way of derelict properties.

In all matters of forestry, agriculture, and entomology, as well as in other directions, the Seychelles public is much indebted to Mr. J. Stanley Gardiner and his colleagues Messrs. Scott and Fryer, the members of a scientific expedition from Cambridge, who spent several months in the archipelago.

(E.) Shipping.

33. The tonnage of vessels entering and clearing—exclusive of coastwise trade—is higher than in 1907, and the facilities for seaborne trade are much improved. The tonnage under the French flag, as represented by the two calls per month of the Messageries

steamers, remains constant: British shipping has fallen considerably, and German vessels have taken the place of British. Every opportunity was offered to British lines to call, but in every case the inducements were considered insufficient. The German East Africa Line (D.O.A.L.), however, considered the prospects sufficiently promising, and have arranged to call at Mahé by time table on their service between Bombay and East Africa, and to detach ships to call at St. Pierre on their way home from South Africa, in order to pick up cargoes of guano. The establishment of a regular line of communication with Bombay is a great relief, on account of the inconvenience which arose through the irregular supply of rice and other food-stuffs.

The following gives the total tonnage entering and clearing during 1907 and 1908, by nationalities :—

Nationality.	1907.		1908.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain...	56	83,123	30	51,295
France...	53	115,048	50	114,010
Germany	30	50,076	46	92,234
Norway	8	4,608	8	7,306
United States...	2	2,100	—	—
Italy	2	1,990	—	—
Portugal	—	—	4	7,028
Russia	—	—	2	2,962
Total	151	256,945	140	274,935

34. Two British men-of-war (tonnage 8,620) visited Mahé during 1908, and four cruisers called, two Portuguese, one French, and one German. The total war tonnage for six years is recorded, showing the marked decrease of visits under the new principle of concentration :—

Year.	Tonnage.
1903	47,423
1904	33,030
1905	28,954
1906	21,454
1907	12,743
1908	13,325

35. The mail service is carried out by French steamers of the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes, which call once a month homeward bound to Marseilles and outward bound to Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius.

Means of Communication among the Islands.

36. The Port Office is an important department in a Colony which consists of 90 islands and groups of islands, several of which are situated over 600 miles from Mahé. The main interest centres in

the Seychelles Archipelago, consisting of 45 mountain tops and coral atolls, rising from the Seychelles bank, an area measuring 150 miles from north to south, and about the same from east to west. In this area the soundings do not exceed 50 fathoms, with an average depth of 1,700 fathoms outside the line of the banks. The islands in this group are served for administrative purposes by means of a Government steam launch, the "Alexandra," of 30 tons, built at the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard and received in December, 1902. The "Alexandra" made in 1908 30 voyages and carried 618 passengers. She was laid up for repairs for four months of 1908. The service of the steam launch is supplemented by the use of a Government cutter, the "Wave," of 7½ tons, which is used on a monthly service to the lighthouse on Denis Island, an atoll on the northern edge of the banks, 55 miles from Victoria. The lighthouse service, efficiently maintained, is under the control of the Port Officer. There is in addition a fleet of smaller boats employed by the Government in local service for the medical officers, the police and the preventive staff, and on quarantine service. The Amirantes Archipelago, situated on a bank to the west and southwest of Mahé, the nearest point being 120 miles off, extends north and south some 260 miles, with a maximum breadth of 50 miles. This archipelago consists of 27 islands or atolls divided into five groups, known as the African Banks, St. Joseph Group, Poivre Island, Alphonse Group, and Providence Group, the last named being within 170 miles of Cape Amber, the most northern point of Madagascar. This archipelago as well as the Cosmoledo Islands (12 in number, situated 210 miles west of Providence) and the Aldabra Group (of five more islands, 60 miles still further to the west) are served by sailing craft owned in Seychelles. During 1908 all the groups and islands were officially inspected by the visiting magistrate under the provisions of the Outlying Islands Ordinance; the important groups were frequently visited. In addition the Governor visited several islands, and special investigations were carried out by the Curator of the Botanic Station, the Inspector of Police, the Chief Medical Officer, and the Superintendent of Works.

Most of the outlying islands are highly fertile, and grow coconuts and maize luxuriantly, and on several there are valuable deposits of guano phosphate of lime.

III.—LEGISLATION.

37. Eighteen Ordinances were passed during the year, most of which are of local interest only. The most important is No. 10, to amend the law relating to the mortgages of married women, minors, and interdicted persons over the property of their husbands and guardians respectively. The old law permitted to a married woman for her marriage portion, or as security for any matrimonial conventions, a general undetermined and uninscribed mortgage over the

property of her husband in terms of real or fictitious marriage contracts. The existence of an occult mortgage of this character has formed a serious hindrance to local credit and has at times been grossly abused. In future, any security under a woman's marriage contract must be by way of a special registrable mortgage for a determined amount.

38. The collection and revision of the laws of Seychelles was concluded in 1907. Volume I. contains Mauritius laws in force in Seychelles, Volume II. contains Seychelles laws from 1872 to 1898, and Volume III. from 1899 to 1906. The Ordinances passed in each subsequent year are now published annually.

IV.—EDUCATION.

39. The total number of children receiving instruction in 1908 in schools subject to Government inspection or control was 2,640, representing 12 per cent. of the population. Higher education is represented by the Victoria School—a Government institution on an undenominational basis (135 boys); St. Louis College, for boys, conducted by the Marist Brothers (119); and St. Joseph Convent, for girls, under the control of the Sisters of St. Joseph de Cluny (140). A Seychelles centre has been established for the Cambridge Local Examinations, on the result of which two scholarships may be awarded yearly of £60 for four years. An Ordinance enables the Board of Education to send the holder of a scholarship to a technical college, or to cause him to be apprenticed to any approved occupation, or to allow him to continue his study at the Victoria School, Seychelles, at the Royal College, Mauritius, or at any approved school or college elsewhere in British Possessions.

Four exhibitions may be awarded annually at the Victoria School to pupils under the age of thirteen years of any primary school in Seychelles. There are fourteen primary schools under the direction of the Roman Catholic Church, and five schools belonging to the Church of England.

The Government grant-in-aid to the primary schools was fixed at Rs. 10,000.

40. The direction of the education policy of the Colony is under the Board of Education, consisting of the Governor and his Executive Council, advised by an Education Committee composed of the Chief Justice as Chairman, four members nominated by the Governor (of whom two are officials and two unofficials), two persons nominated by the Roman Catholic Bishop, and one by the Civil Chaplain of the Church of England, with the Inspector of Schools as Secretary.

The standard of knowledge acquired by the pupils in the Secondary Schools is annually improving; 22 boys and girls passed the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1908, and honours have been gained in every grade. The teaching in the primary schools

is still unsatisfactory. The peasant children and the children of African origin are not naturally bright, and labour under the disadvantage of knowing only a creole patois, which is too restricted and rude to be a medium of learning. As far as possible, English is now the sole medium through which teaching is imparted, but its acquisition is that of a foreign language. The same difficulty would apply in almost as marked a degree to the use of French as a medium. But little assistance is received from home surroundings, as the patois is, in the majority of houses, the sole language used. There is, however, a growing desire on the part of parents to obtain for their children the advantage of a fair knowledge of English. A popular and useful institution is an exhibition of school work of all kinds held annually in December.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital.

41. The Victoria Hospital is the only general hospital in Seychelles. The excellent system of roads, carried out by my predecessor, renders it unnecessary to establish a similar institution in South Mahé. A cottage hospital in Praslin, to serve the group of islands administered from that centre, would be a public benefit, and the project will be kept in view until such time as the resources of the Colony are in such an improved condition as to warrant the expenditure.

The Victoria Hospital is supplemented by the establishment of six outdoor dispensaries, namely, one at Victoria, under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer, two at Anse Royale and Anse Boileau respectively, serving the needs of South Mahé, and three under the direction of the Assistant Medical Officer for the Praslin District, namely, two on the island of Praslin, at Baie St. Anne and Grand Anse, and one on the adjacent island of La Digue.

42. The statistics of the Victoria Hospital for the last five years are given in the following table :—

Year.	Discharged Cured.	Discharged Relieved.	Discharged Unrelieved.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital.	Total.
1904 ...	210	38	13	20	18	299
1905 ...	241	45	20	14	14	334
1906 ...	192	52	8	22	10	284
1907 ...	219	34	13	14	10	276
1908 ...	288	30	27	14	20	379

The hospital is central and well situated. The wards are airy and well constructed, and the water supply is pure and unlimited.

There is a commodious dispensary adjacent, and quarters are provided for the Chief and Assistant Medical Officers and for the three nursing sisters, who belong to the Roman Catholic Society of St. Joseph de Cluny. A large number of improvements in the hospital were sanctioned in 1908, and are being carried out in 1909.

Dispensaries.

43. The number of persons who attended for treatment at the outdoor dispensaries was 3,006. As usual, the number of females attending the dispensaries (2,223) greatly exceeds the number of men (783).

Principal Diseases.

44. The death-rate per mille in 1908 was 16·24. The average for the ten years previous was 16·84. The number of deaths of infants under one year was 78 out of 708 births. The number of deaths under five years was 127, which is the average of ten years past. Thirteen cases of beri beri have been under treatment with one death; they were all traceable to the outlying islands. Influenza—or perhaps it may be dengue fever—has been prevalent, but no deaths are attributable to this malady. There have been 27 deaths from pulmonary phthisis, a malady which is on the increase..

The supply of vaccine from Europe by the monthly mails is of good quality and gives excellent results, the successful cases being 98·4 per cent. Vaccination of infants is obligatory.

Leper Asylum.

45. There are eight lepers in the home at Round Island. The Medical Officer in charge is of opinion that leprosy is not on the increase, but his experience goes to show that there are families in which there is susceptibility towards this malady. The home on Round Island, in the Baie St. Anne, within ready access from the house of the Assistant Medical Officer of Praslin, is well adapted for the treatment of cases. Ordinance No. 1 of 1909 makes notification of leprosy compulsory.

Pauper Camp.

46. The number of paupers maintained by the Government at the close of the year was fifteen. These patients represent the old and destitute, principally liberated slaves. The camp is roomy, healthily placed, and well kept. A Friend-in-need Society styled La Charité receives a subsidy from Government funds, proportionate to the subscriptions by its members, and by its aid many of the aged poor are relieved in their own homes.

Lunatic Asylum.

47. Insane persons were sent until 1906 to the Government Asylum of Mauritius, where six cases are still under treatment. A well appointed asylum is now established at Anse Royale under

the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé, who has made a special study of mental diseases. Twelve patients are in this establishment.

Savings Bank.

48. The following table gives the savings bank statistics for the last five years :—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs. cts.
1904... ...	302	34	23	58,462 53
1905... ...	307	39	34	67,852 10
1906... ...	315	23	15	131,546 43
1907... ...	356	49	8	158,283 03
1908... ...	351	57	62	123,709 56

The large increase in deposits in 1907 was due to the prosperity of that year ; the accumulation of savings awaiting investment was substantially reduced during 1908.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Law Courts.

49. The following table shows the volume of judicial work transacted in the five years, 1904–8 :—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of Civil Cases.*
1904	1,107	1,302	832	232
1905	1,048	1,503	1,278	181
1906	1,212	1,575	1,436	203
1907	1,291	1,426	1,268	179
1908	1,108	1,435	1,262	212

* Exclusive of cases referred to Court for non-payment of local rates.

50. The number of cases of crime and misdemeanour dealt with in the Supreme Court of Seychelles was 357 ; 452 persons were charged, 394 were convicted, and 57 were acquitted. The bulk of the convictions (including 220 for contraventions under specific Ordinances—especially the Licensing Law—and 78 for petty larcenies), were for offences of a trifling character. There was a

marked absence of serious crime. The Chief Justice as Stipendiary Magistrate dealt with 31 cases under the Labour Laws.

The number of cases dealt with in the Police Court was 458; 592 persons were charged and 543 convicted, most for drunkenness or disturbance. The Justice of the Peace for South Mahé had before him 162 accused persons, of whom 138 were convicted. The Justice of the Peace for Praslin and La Digue tried 176 persons, and convicted 149. The Visiting Magistrates for the outlying islands dealt with five cases, all of which resulted in convictions, but the offences were of trifling character. The population as a whole is singularly law-abiding. The illicit preparation of "bacca," the fermented juice of the sugar cane, is still prevalent, and the custom of having a "festin" in order to clear an extent of land for cultivation, to which all the labourers in the neighbourhood are invited and rewarded by a free distribution of fermented "bacca," leads to drunkenness and disorder.

Police Force.

51. The authorised strength of the police force remained throughout the year at 59 of all ranks. In addition, one corporal and eight constables were in charge of the political prisoners, their services being paid for by the Governments of the Gold Coast and Uganda.

The following table (of the prosecutions by the Police, exclusive of those undertaken by private parties) shows a diminution in crime in 1908:—

Year.	No. of cases.	Persons charged.	Persons convicted.	Declared value of property lost.	Value of property recovered.	Fines inflicted.
				Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1904 ...	797	961	836	4,385	503	8,025
1905 ...	1,023	1,295	1,163	1,191	969	9,858
1906 ...	1,072	1,373	1,275	1,294	699	8,880
1907 ...	1,007	1,223	1,119	1,999	933	12,806
1908 ...	906	1,178	1,101	344	156	10,558

52. The principal cause in the diminution of crime is the steady employment offered on the outlying islands for the idlers or casual labourers. The conditions of island life are attractive to this class, who do not mind hard work but like short hours. The police force has greatly improved in efficiency and morale during the past three years.

Prison.

53. The number of persons committed to prison during 1908 amounted to 388 men and 103 women; but of this total 325 were under remand for safe custody or were sentenced to simple imprisonment in default of payment of fines imposed by the Courts. The number actually sentenced to undergo penal imprisonment was 166,

viz., 141 men and 25 women. The daily average of prisoners was 50, of whom seven were women. Fourteen persons, all males, were admitted to the prison infirmary; there were two deaths. There were no cases of corporal punishment.

The printing department is now carried on within the precincts of the prison, with a marked improvement in the quantity and quality of the work turned out and an economy of 35 per cent. in the expenditure.

The prison is now on a level with modern requirements. The cost of the Prison Department in 1907 was Rs. 9,108. The cost in 1907 was Rs. 9,482; in 1906, Rs. 12,110, and in 1905, Rs. 15,018. The subjoined table shows the statistics for the past five years :—

Year.	Number committed to prison.	Daily average of male and female prisoners in prison.
1904	467	50
1905	660	75
1906	691	70
1907	451	48
1908	491	50

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

54. The population on the 31st December, 1908, was estimated at 21,982, viz., 11,236 males and 10,746 females. The births numbered 708—32·20 per mille—and the deaths 357—16·24 per mille.

The number of still-births was 47. The proportion of illegitimate births is 33 per cent. There were 126 marriages. The density of the population is 140·91 per square mile.

Climate.

55. Rain fell on 176 days and measured 81·22 inches. The average daily maximum temperature was 82·9°, and the minimum, 76·9°. The mean temperature was 79·8°, slightly higher than the average of the ten years previous, viz., 79·04°.

The average rainfall for the last 15 years has been 100·8 inches; the fall in 1907 and 1908 was below the average, but it was evenly and satisfactorily distributed throughout the year, and there was no recurrence of a period of drought such as wrought such havoc in the plantations in 1904 and 1905. On the 6th March 6·40 inches of rain fell. February was the wettest month with 19·71 inches. The winds were very light during the first five months of the year, and the south-east trades were not thoroughly established until June, dying away in the middle of November. The winds were from the south-east and south for 200 days, and from the north-west and north for 90 days. The greatest velocity for 20 hours was on June 3rd, at the rate of 21·2 miles per hour.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

56. There is a steady increase in the volume of correspondence; the number of letters and papers handled was 327,000, and of parcels 2,683.

57. The mail service is performed by the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes. There is no formal contract, but steamers leaving Marseilles on the 25th of each month call at Mahé on the outward voyage to Madagascar, Réunion, and Mauritius about the 10th of each month. Return steamers call about the 8th of each month, arriving in Marseilles about the 25th. This arrangement of dates precludes the sending of a reply to a letter for nearly a month after its receipt, either in Seychelles or in the United Kingdom. For this service the Company receives a subsidy of Rs. 1,750 for each call, and it is entitled to exemption from all harbour dues and from local rates. The cost of conveyance of mails beyond the Colony in 1908 was Rs. 36,592. Since December 1906, the General Post Office has made up a mail to leave Marseilles on the 10th of each month by Messageries Maritimes steamers on that branch of their Indian Ocean route which calls at Zanzibar and Diego Suarez, and from that latter port the bags are transferred to the homeward-bound mail steamer. The passage of mails by this route occupies 30 days from London, as compared with 17 days by the direct route.

His Majesty's ships of war are always prepared to carry mails, and opportunities occur each month for the despatch of supplementary mails by steamers calling at the port of Victoria.

58. There is no inland service of telegraph, but a cable station is established at Mahé by the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company on the line to Australia. This Government pays to the Company an annual subsidy of Rs. 15,000 (£1,000) towards the maintenance of a cable between Zanzibar and Mauritius, under an agreement to be in force for twenty years and expiring in 1913, entered into between the Imperial Government and the Company, the total subsidy amounting to £28,000 per annum.

59. The following table shows the business transacted in Post Office money orders :—

Money Orders (including British Postal Orders).

Year.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
External :—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Money Orders issued ...	53,323	75,229	55,419	73,061	283,347
Money Orders paid... ...	10,097	10,144	14,368	12,436	11,858
Totals	63,420	85,373	69,787	85,497	295,205
Internal :—					
Money Orders issued and paid.	6,426	7,370	5,813	4,538	4,207

To facilitate trade settlements and in the absence of banks, the Government lowered the rate of commission on external money orders to 2 per cent. and offered unrestricted facilities, thus quadrupling the money order business. The Government's object is also to prevent fluctuations in the rate of exchange. This function of the Government has been carried through without loss.

60. The following table shows the local receipts and expenditure :—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Local receipts	12,743	17,265	22,033	17,206	18,424
Local expenditure	10,095	8,619	10,384	9,853	10,500

IX.—GENERAL.

61. There being no local banks and no prospect of banking business being set on foot by private enterprise, the Government has, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, undertaken certain of the functions of an exchange bank and has provided the machinery for buying and selling bills, utilising the services of the Crown Agents as a clearing house. Importers from India—whence the food supply of the Colony is mainly drawn—and elsewhere have bought Money Orders at 2 per cent. commission up to Rs. 283,347. The Crown Agents on advice from this Government settle the claim of the Post Office Departments monthly. During the same period the Government has bought bills of exporters to the value of Rs. 287,838 which were remitted to the Crown Agents for collection. This arrangement, though still primitive, has checked the outward drain of notes and specie and has saved solvent drawers of bills from being mulcted in heavy damages by way of exchange. The local conditions are complicated by the fact that the bulk of imports comes from India through Indian traders and the bulk of exports is sent to Europe direct by the producers. The Government makes a trifling profit over the transactions as a whole, and the risk of loss is very small in such a little community where the affairs of every trader are fairly well known.

62. The Government has published a volume containing documents on the history of the Seychelles Islands anterior to their cession by the French Government in 1810, together with a cartography enumerating 94 ancient maps and plans dating back to 1501, and a bibliography of books and MSS. concerning these islands. Of the maps and plans, 38 have been reproduced, and are separately published in a portfolio with a descriptive catalogue. The documents in this volume of archives are in French, but an

introduction is written in English reviewing the whole collection, and setting out the matters of general interest to English readers.

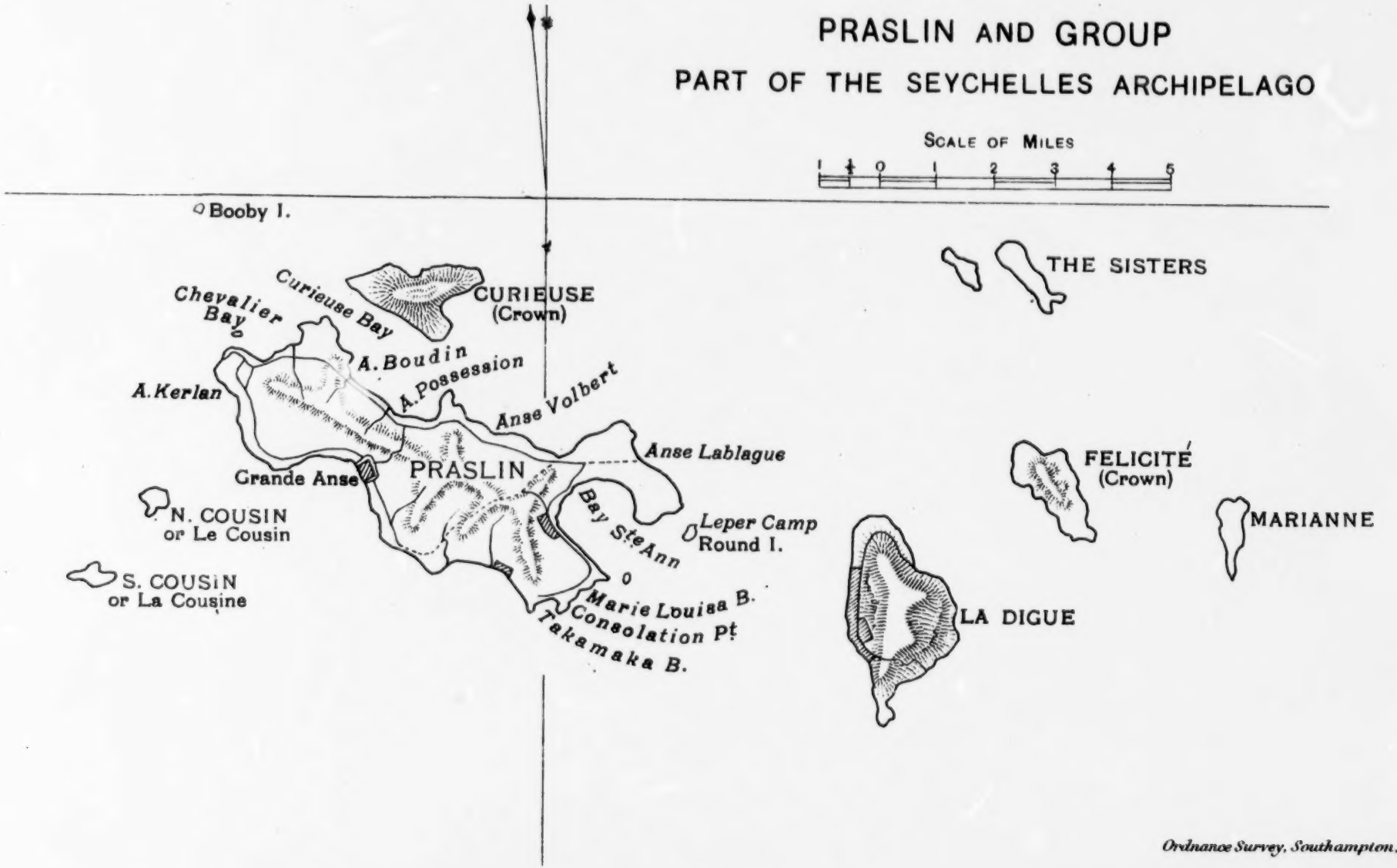
63. The public library, founded by the generosity of Mr. A. Carnegie, who has presented a sum of £2,000 for the purpose, is in course of construction, and will be completed during 1909. The Government has granted a sum of Rs. 3,000 (£200) towards the purchase of books, and has undertaken to give an annual grant of Rs. 1,650 a year for the maintenance of the fabric, and for additions to the library.

W. E. DAVIDSON,

Governor.

1st June, 1909.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, E


PRASLIN AND GROUP
PART OF THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIPELAGO
SCALE OF MILES
1 0 1 2 3 4 5
Booby I.
THE SISTERS
CURIEUSE
(Crown)
Curieuse Bay
Chevalier Bay
A. Boudin
A. Possession
A. Kerlan
Anse Volbert
Anse Lablague
PRASLIN
Grande Anse
FELICITÉ
(Crown)
MARIANNE
N. COUSIN
or Le Cousin
Leper Camp
Round I.
Bay Ste Ann
S. COUSIN
or La Cousine
Marie Louisa B.
Conselation Pt
Takamaka B.
LA DIGUE
Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1901.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
571	Malta	1907–1908
572	British Honduras	1907
573	Gold Coast	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate	1907–1908
575	Bahamas	"
576	Gambia	1907
577	St. Vincent	1907–1908
578	Turks and Caicos Islands	1907
579	St. Lucia	"
580	Fiji	"
581	Mauritius	"
582	Straits Settlements	"
583	Southern Nigeria	"
584	Imperial Institute	1906–1907
585	Barbados	1907–1908
586	Somaliland Protectorate	"
587	Trinidad and Tobago	"
588	Sierra Leone	1907
589	British Guiana	1907–1908
590	Grenada	1907
591	Leeward Islands	1907–1908
592	East Africa Protectorate	"
593	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
594	Northern Nigeria	"
595	Basutoland	"
596	Swaziland	"
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	1907–1908
599	Falkland Islands	1908
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	1908–1909
605	Weihaiwei	1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.
54	Newfoundland	Governor's visit to the Micmac Indians.
55	Cape Colony	Reitfontein Area.
56	Turks Islands	Salt Industry.
57	Uganda	Governor's Tour.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.

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1909.

COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL.

No. 643.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 606.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1910.

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No. 643.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 606.)

THE GOVERNOR to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
7th June, 1910.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the report on the Seychelles Blue Book for the year 1909.

I have, &c.,
W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

(17004—2.) Wt. 27349—387. 1125 & 85. 7/10. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON SEYCHELLES BLUE BOOK FOR 1909.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1909 amounted to Rs. 511,316, being by Rs. 10,000 the highest ever recorded. The revenue exceeded the estimate by Rs. 7,746.

Expenditure.

2. The expenditure was Rs. 519,158, in which is included the expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary, namely Rs. 86,269.96.

The expenditure exceeded the revenue by Rs. 7,842. In spite of this trifling deficit, the past year may be considered as the most successful financially in the history of the Colony, as the sum expended on public works of an extraordinary character was no less than Rs. 20,000 higher than in any previous year.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1910.

The revenue for 1910 has been estimated at Rs. 496,235 and the expenditure at Rs. 487,872, including Rs. 46,200 on Public Works Extraordinary.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1905 to 1909.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1905	375,779 ...	393,691
1906	419,932 ...	370,971
1907	501,293 ...	381,029
1908	473,836 ...	465,753
1909	511,316 ...	519,158

Local Boards.

4. The Local Boards, which are the general municipal and sanitary authorities, have no separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. Boards have been created for the Central District, the South Mahé District, and the Islands of Praslin and La Digue.

The total votes for these Boards in 1910 amounted to Rs. 27,863.

There are no elections to membership of public bodies, all appointments to which are in the hands of the Governor.

Details of Revenue, 1908 and 1909.

5. The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1908 and 1909:—

Heads of Receipts.	1908. Rs. Cts.	1909. Rs. Cts.
1. Customs	243,119.22	237,331.18
2. Pilotage and Harbour Dues ...	9,892.24	8,010.63
3. Licences, &c.	61,840.13	66,025.66
4. Taxes	46,747.41	47,455.61
5. Fees of Court, &c.	23,753.41	33,588.27
6. Post Office	18,351.85	14,147.05
7. Crown Lands	17,801.96	90,560.96
8. Interest	11,502.10	10,170.15
9. Miscellaneous	40,702.61	4,026.80
10. Land Sales	125.00	—
Total	473,835.93	511,316.31

REMARKS ON DETAILS OF REVENUE.

6. With the continued shortage in the vanilla crop it was not to be expected that customs receipts would reach the high figures of 1907 (Rs. 257,000) and 1908, but it is satisfactory to note that the receipts exceeded the estimate by Rs. 17,300. The stability of customs and licences clearly indicates that the Colony as a whole is in a financially sound condition. The distribution of prosperity varies, however, according to the crops. Vanilla provides the mass of the labouring population with the wherewithal to indulge in its somewhat primitive pleasures. The creole of mixed African descent and the pure African are not thrifty as a class, like the Indian, and money quickly earned as in good vanilla seasons or in employment on the guano works is more quickly spent. Coconuts on the other hand bring the greatest material benefit to the landed class, and, with the present high rate of prices, there is no doubt that the planter is in an exceptionally good position. Coconuts yield month in and month out, and though there is a considerable increase in the crop during a certain portion of the year the incomings are spread over the whole year. The shortage in vanilla crops has, to a large extent, been counterbalanced by increased employment in the guano operations in the outlying islands, bringing good wages to the labouring class. These factors account for the maintenance of customs receipts at a high figure. With the prospects of a fair vanilla crop in 1910 and the maintenance of the price of coconuts at an extraordinarily high level, there should be no falling off in the current year, in spite of the partial cessation of the guano works. Fees of Court show a satisfactory increase, which should be maintained in 1910, owing to large succession dues. All receipts from Crown Lands, namely, rents, sale of produce, and royalty on guano are now grouped together. The sales of produce, including royalty on guano, had been previously brought to account under the heading Miscellaneous. The receipts from Crown Lands were Rs. 28,000 less than the estimate, owing mainly to a reduction in the rate of royalty on guano granted under an agreement which was entered into after the Estimates were framed.

Details of Expenditure, 1908 and 1909.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1908 and 1909:—

Heads of Service.	1908. Rs. Cts.	1909. Rs. Cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	14,816.25	14,816.25
2. Pensions and Gratuities ...	12,999.14	11,337.34
3. Governor and Legislature ...	25,776.19	24,572.30
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department ...	22,627.66	24,950.68
5. Audit Department	6,294.86	6,420.39
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse Department	16,747.48	17,659.08
7. Legal Department	33,757.97	33,836.98
8. Police Department	34,945.17	37,467.16
9. Prison	9,108.25	11,643.93
10. Medical Department and Quarantine	35,039.85	41,037.77
11. Ecclesiastical Department ...	9,750.00	9,750.00
12. Education Department ...	28,987.15	36,218.94
13. Printing Department	4,116.89	3,377.67
14. Post Office Department ...	14,793.99	12,031.24
15. Transport	3,139.42	2,748.65
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department	10,435.90	15,915.82
17. Local Board, Central District	15,278.58	19,860.73
18. Local Board, South Mahé ...	4,573.66	4,237.17
19. Local Board, Praslin	1,733.85	2,722.05
20. Local Board, La Digue ...	1,133.67	1,509.44
21. Exchange and Cost of Remittances	6,335.44	2,481.46
22. Miscellaneous	9,282.67	9,645.87
23. Telegraphs and Steamer Subsidies	51,591.72	59,991.18
24. Public Works Department ...	10,989.37	11,251.47
25. Public Works Recurrent ...	16,460.61	17,404.08
26. Public Works Extraordinary	65,037.56	86,269.96
Total	465,753.30	519,158.11

Remarks on Details of Expenditure.

8. The Police Department was strengthened by the addition of a corporal and two constables, and a new police station was opened at Anse aux Pins.

The expenditure of the Prison Department in 1908 was Rs. 2,000 below the estimate, owing to a falling off in the number of prisoners. The expenditure in 1909 was normal. The Medical Department shows an increase of Rs. 6,000. In 1908 the department was for some time short handed, and in 1909 there was an outbreak of small-pox on the Quarantine Station, the cost of suppression of which amounted to Rs. 1,032.

Under the heading Education there is a non-recurrent charge of Rs. 3,000, being a grant-in-aid to the Carnegie Library for the purchase of a nucleus collection of books.

The increase in mail subsidies is due to the full subsidies not having been paid in 1908, and to the payment of arrears of the subsidy for Reuter's telegrams service for 1907 and 1908.

Under Public Works Extraordinary the following are among the most important works which were undertaken or finished during the year:—

(1.) A well appointed Lunatic Asylum has been completed at Anse Royale with spacious accommodation for male and female lunatics, at a total cost of Rs. 19,334. The expenditure on this service in 1909 amounted to Rs. 3,099.

(2.) The Transit Shed on the Long Pier has been extended 56 feet on land reclaimed from the sea and a siding for carts built at a total cost of Rs. 4,993.

(3.) The material for the new Lighthouse at Denis Island, costing Rs. 46,571, was obtained during the year. The new light, which will be a revolving light as recommended by Trinity House, is expected to be in working order in July, 1910.

(4.) A new Police Station was built on Crown Land at Baie St. Anne, Praslin, at a cost of Rs. 1,764.

(5.) Substantial improvements were effected to the Victoria Hospital, costing Rs. 6,637. (*See* Section V., Government Institutions.)

(6.) The quarantine disinfecting apparatus was removed from the Quarantine Station and re-erected on an islet close to the Port Office, where the disinfection of cargo and baggage can be effected without loss of time or money. The cost of this service amounted to Rs. 1,440.

(7.) A house in a central position in the town was acquired and a dormitory erected for a boarding house in connection with the Victoria School. The house was purchased at Rs. 6,500, and the dormitory and other improvements costs Rs. 3,198.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

9. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last six years:—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1904	829,211	905,171	724,187	801,894
1905	789,785	823,452	808,032	848,744
1906	811,366	916,397	794,681	807,781
1907	1,364,787	1,174,412	2,270,520	2,270,820
1908	1,124,691	1,150,741	1,489,125	1,657,175
1909	1,018,476	1,019,876	1,569,950	1,569,950

Trade.

The volume of trade is lower than in the exceptional year 1907, when large crops and good prices coincided, but the aggregate of imports and exports is maintained at a high level in proportion to the population and area of the Colony. The general credit of the commercial houses is good and there is no over-trading.

Banking.

There is little movement of specie of late years owing to the Government having, in the absence of any banking institution, undertaken some of the functions of a bank whose aims are to facilitate trade and to maintain the level of exchange without profit and without risk. Money can be imported by telegraphic exchange at par through the Crown Agents: this suits the Government, whose home expenditure is much in excess of home receipts, and it is a convenience to those exporters who realise on their produce in Europe and need to make remittances for working expenses. The Government also buys approved bills at a small commission to cover the cost of collection. The Government also sells bills by way of Money Orders through the Post Office, charging a commission of two per cent., which covers charges and loss of interest. All postal accounts are settled monthly through the Crown Agents, who serve as a Clearing House. It suits the Indian traders who import rice and foodstuffs from India, and who find that they cannot develop a return trade in exports, to settle their accounts by Money Orders on Bombay. If the Treasury reserve is being depleted, the commission on Money Orders to India is raised.

Currency.

The medium of exchange is the Indian rupee with the subsidiary coinage of Mauritius; the paper money of Mauritius is accepted by the Treasury, but not paper money of the Government of India. The gold coinage of the United Kingdom and Bank of England notes are accepted at par at the Treasury and at the Post Office, and are sold at par when required for the personal use of travellers.

Imports.

10. The following statement shows the value of imports according to the country of origin:—

	Rs.	Rs.
From the United Kingdom ...	331,088	
From British Possessions... ...	468,609	
		799,697
From Foreign Countries		220,179
		1,019,876

	Rs.
The British Possessions are:	
India	368,904
Mauritius	80,398
Aden	14,963
Zanzibar	3,052
Others	1,292
	468,609
The Foreign Possessions are:	
France	185,008
French Possessions	15,525
Germany	8,235
United States	5,239
China	3,830
Others	2,324
	220,179

The following are the items exceeding Rs.10,000 in value:—

From United Kingdom.—Cotton goods (Rs.74,524), iron-ware (Rs.33,518), coal (Rs.27,321), haberdashery (Rs.25,922), provisions, articles de mode, and boots.

From British India.—Rice (Rs.210,678), cotton goods (Rs.66,338), flour (Rs.25,540), and dholl (Rs.14,959).

From Mauritius.—Sugar (Rs.49,120).

From Aden.—Coffee (Rs.14,132).

From France.—Wines and spirits (Rs.68,659), haberdashery (Rs.33,234), cotton goods and articles de mode (Rs.19,323).

Taken in bulk, foodstuffs aggregate to Rs.389,821; articles of clothing, Rs.243,141; manufactured goods, Rs.203,928; wines and spirits, Rs.88,891.

11. Exports.

—	Produce of Seychelles.	Re-exports.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
To the United Kingdom	178,890	2,728	181,618
British Possessions	173,048	1,500	174,548
Foreign countries	1,200,962	12,822	1,213,784
Total	1,552,900	17,050	1,569,950

The produce of Seychelles exported in 1909 was:—

1. Copra.—2,323 tons; value Rs.533,714; a normal crop.
2. Guano.—17,483 tons; value Rs.524,504; half a million tons in reserve.
3. Vanilla.—11,267 kilos.; value Rs.200,345; a very short crop.

4. Soap.—263 tons; value Rs.90,062; checked by high price of coconut oil.
5. Cinnamon-bark.—1,044 tons; value Rs.72,574; inferior bark; export likely to decrease.
6. Coconut-oil.—1,764 hct.; value Rs.56,702; checked by high prices of copra.
7. Tortoise-shell.—947 kilos.; value Rs.33,416; a short outturn.
8. Calipee.—10,187 kilos.; value Rs.16,069; a new industry.
9. Cacao.—4,673 kilos.; value Rs.3,502; decreasing.
10. Essential oils.—584 litres; value Rs.3,475; a new industry, mainly cloves and cinnamon.
11. Coco de mer.—3,802; value Rs.3,323; a local speciality.
12. Coconuts.—91,907; value Rs. 3,188.

Other items in order of value are: shell, hides, mangrove-bark (likely to develop largely), salted fish, turtle oil (capable of expansion), rum, sponges, coffee (dying out), fresh fruits, salted limes, vacoa bags, dried bananas, turtle bones, salted eggs, vetiver root, salted turtle meat, cloves, orchella weed.

Exports to British Possessions.

12. The exports to the United Kingdom are: Vanilla (Rs. 109,169), tortoise-shell (Rs.25,825), copra, calipee, cinnamon-bark, cacao, clove oil, and turtle oil. Generally speaking, luxuries go to the London market.

The products cleared for British Possessions are:

India.—Copra, coconut oil, and coco de mer, (Rs.86,827).
New Zealand.—Guano (lost at sea), (Rs.33,990).
Natal.—Guano, (Rs.16,500).
Zanzibar.—Soap, (Rs.15,892).
Mauritius.—Cocoanut oil, (Rs.13,420).

Exports to Foreign Countries.

13. For foreign countries are:

France.—Copra (Rs.455,558), vanilla (Rs.91,156), guano (Rs.67,500).
Belgium.—Guano (Rs.201,000).
Germany.—Guano and cinnamon bark (Rs.183,147).
Holland.—Guano, cinnamon bark (Rs.82,111).
Madagascar.—Soap, coconut oil (Rs.65,689).
German East Africa.—Soap (Rs.22,745).

Manufactures, Fisheries, and Agriculture.

14. Under these three headings there is little to add to the reports of previous years.

Manufactures.

The rum distillery continued in operation during the year.

A fibre factory has been begun at Cascade, but is not yet in full working order.

The engineering works were maintained in the past efficiency, and a steam plane was added to the appliances which are now well up to date.

Fisheries.

15. Attempts have been made to encourage fisheries for sponge and mother-of-pearl shell. Several samples of local sponges were reported on by the Director of the Imperial Institute, but they proved to be of little commercial value.

The fisheries of the Colony admit of enormous development, given enterprise and capital. The numerous banks and shoals teem with fish, such as bonito and a large mackerel similar to, but smaller than, the albacore, known locally as carangue.

The follow table gives the exports in 1909 of the various products of the sea:—

Tortoise-shell	947 kilos.,	value	Rs.33,416
Calipee	10,187 ,,	,,	Rs.16,069
Salt fish, turtle oil, &c.	— ,,	,,	Rs.3,890

Agriculture.

16. The Curator of the Botanic Station in his report for the year, which is annexed to this report, has fully dealt with the present position of agriculture. There is no doubt that the standard of cultivation is raised yearly.

Insect Pests.

17. The plague of scale insects, referred to in the Governor's Report for 1908, showed little sign of diminution. Limes and other fruit trees have been seriously damaged and in some places completely destroyed by the Icerya, a white blight which is accompanied by a small black ant. The ants use the Icerya as cows from which they draw the milk and often build little shelters over them to protect them from the rain. Another scale insect has attacked the Liberian coffee, which hitherto has resisted all forms of diseases. Protective legislation is under the consideration of the Agricultural Board.

Crown Lands.

18. The scheme referred to in paragraph 32 of the annual report for 1908 for the acquisition of the central mountain zone for reafforestation purposes has been concluded. The acquisition by purchase and exchange of the whole area of the central watershed has involved a money outlay of Rs.24,616.

The realisation of this scheme secures the town and the central valleys from the constant fear of a dearth in the water supply, and precludes the possibility of the denudation of the largest and highest tract of mountainous land in Mahé. From the scientific point of view the additional advantage is reaped of preserving in its virgin state one of the last remaining portions of indigenous forest. The lower portions of the land are being planted up with economic trees, which should prove in years to come a valuable asset to the Colony.

With the exception of the lands exchanged in this connection there were no grants of Crown Lands in 1909.

SHIPPING.

Shipping Statistics.

19. The total tonnage entered and cleared was 292,304—18,000 tons higher than in 1908.

The following table gives the tonnage (entered and cleared) by nationalities for 1908 and 1909:—

Nationality.	1908.		1909.	
	No.	Tonnage.	No.	Tonnage.
Great Britain	30	51,295	47	71,512
France	50	114,010	50	113,240
Germany...	46	92,234	44	88,870
Norway	8	7,306	6	6,330
Italy	—	—	4	11,778
Portugal	4	7,028	—	—
Russia	2	2,962	—	—
United States	—	—	2	574
Total	140	274,935	153	292,304

British tonnage shows a slight increase, owing to a line of cargo steamers, known as the Persian Line, calling with rice from Bombay and Rangoon. About half of the British tonnage consists of vessels in ballast calling for orders. French tonnage is represented chiefly by the Messageries Maritimes Company. The German East Africa Company (D.O.A.L.) continued their useful service with Bombay, Zanzibar, and South African ports.

"*Alexandra.*"

20. The Government steam launch "Alexandra" performed 59 voyages during the year, conveying 848 passengers. Her earnings amounted to Rs.1,870. During the south-east trade wind the cutter "Wave" is substituted for the "Alexandra" in the service of the adjacent islands.

Casualty.

21. There was one casualty during the year—the loss of a fishing-boat with seven men. No traces were found of the boat after she left Mahé, though searches were made by the Government cutter "Wave" and other vessels.

Lighthouses.

22. The work of rebuilding the lighthouse on Denis Island was begun, and the materials, costing over Rs.46,000, were received during the year. The work has been delayed owing to the breakage in transit from Europe of one of the columns. An engineer from Trinity House is in charge of the construction. The lighthouse service is well executed.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Remarks on Legislation.

23. During the year 1909, 14 Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 1.—To provide for the notification of leprosy and for the prevention and mitigation thereof.

This measure renders the notification of leprosy compulsory, and establishes a procedure for the care and treatment of lepers similar to that in force regarding lunatics. The next-of-kin of the leper may enter into a bond for his proper maintenance and for the carrying out of such precautions as the Chief Medical Officer may prescribe. If the next-of kin are unable or unwilling to make adequate provision for the patient, he may be committed, by order of the Chief Justice, to the Government Asylum, where he is to be treated as a pauper or paying patient according to the means of his "next-of-kin."

No. 2.—To amend the law relating to the practice of midwifery.

This Ordinance compels every certificated midwife to come up for re-examination by the medical examiner every two years.

No. 4.—To amend the law relating to the death penalty.

This Ordinance, which was introduced on instructions from the Secretary of State, provides that sentence of death shall not be pronounced or recorded against any person under the age of sixteen.

No. 5.—(The main Ordinance) and No. 14, which amends it in certain details, deal with labour on outlying islands and form a complete labour code for this important part of the Colony.

The previous code, Ordinance No. 6 of 1902, with its amending Ordinance, is repealed and replaced by a law meeting the present requirements. Virtually, the verbal contract is abolished, as all contracts whether written or verbal have to be entered into before the Crown Prosecutor. This provides a great safeguard for both master and man, and reduces to a minimum the possibility of litigation as to the terms of agreement. The very serious abuse of labourers taking advances and then refusing or neglecting to proceed in the vessel provided to convey them to the islands is met by a simple but effective procedure, similar to that adopted in merchant shipping. The master makes complaint to the police, who forthwith arrest the deserter, for such he is, and convey him on board the vessel after giving warning that he has a right to be taken before the stipendiary magistrate to state his case. If he elects to state his case in court and the magistrate finds that his appeal is based on frivolous grounds, the magistrate has the power to order that the deserter shall pay the costs incurred by the master. For the better preservation of discipline, the manager of an island is given limited powers of imprisonment or in lieu thereof of inflicting a fine not exceeding one day's pay for a first offence and Rs. 5 for a subsequent offence. The power of imprisonment was given under the previous Ordinance, but the owners of islands specially asked that the fine

should be added as an alternative. All penalties are subject to review by the visiting magistrate, from whom an appeal also lies. No cases of abuse of the powers entrusted to managers in this respect have come to light. In other respects, the new code differs but slightly from the former law.

No. 6.—To amend the law relating to contagious or infectious diseases.

This Ordinance adds tuberculosis, chicken pox, whooping cough, and jiggers (chigoe) to the list of diseases, the occurrence of which has to be notified to the Medical Authorities.

No. 7.—To regulate the emigration from Seychelles of servants for service outside the Colony.

This important Ordinance prohibits the recruiting of labour for places outside the Colony, except under licence approved by the Governor. It provides for the payment of repatriation expenses by persons so recruiting labourers.

No. 9.—Prohibits the use of prefixes suggesting Royal or Government patronage in connection with the name of a trading company.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Primary Education.

24. Primary education is imparted in 24 schools, 20 being Roman Catholic under the Marist Brothers and Sisters of the Society of St. Joseph de Cluny, and four under the auspices of the Church of England. Apart from the Government school at Victoria, there are no State-aided primary schools of an undenominational character.

Grants are paid to primary schools on the results of an annual examination. Average attendance and the certificates of teachers are taken into consideration in the computation of grants.

The total amount paid in grants is fixed at Rs. 10,000.

Secondary Education.

25. The system of secondary education established by Ordinance No. 30 of 1900 has been fully tried and found wanting. It is not that individual boys have not succeeded in distinguishing themselves in examinations. The best boys from Seychelles, judging by examination results, are not inferior to the boys of other colonies. But in the keen competition between the two schools, the St. Louis College and the Victoria School, it was inevitable that the interests of the dull majority should be to a great extent sacrificed to those of the gifted few. The whole matter was submitted by the Governor to a very representative Committee, who were given the widest scope for their recommendations in the terms of reference. After lengthy and careful deliberation the Committee made recommendations which should prove of solid benefit to the Colony. The main features of these

recommendations are: (1) that both the Victoria School and St. Louis College as at present constituted should continue to impart secondary education up to, but not further than, the Preliminary Cambridge Local, the latter school receiving substantial grants on results on classes graded up to and including the Preliminary Local.

(2) That a Secondary College—under Government control—be established, the course at which should be that prescribed for the Junior and Senior Cambridge Locals and the London University Matriculation. On the results of the last named examination a scholarship tenable in the United Kingdom will be awarded annually. The value of the scholarship will be £120 a year for four years or £100 a year for five years. Religious instruction, at the option of the parents, will form part of the regular curriculum, and the Director of the St. Louis College and the Civil Chaplain have been invited to join the staff as professors. There will be grants for boarding houses irrespective of denomination.

The scheme has received the approval of the Secretary of State and will be brought into force during 1910.

Secondary Education (Girls).

26. Secondary education for girls is imparted only at the Convent of St. Joseph de Cluny, under the able management of the Reverend Mother Superior. The majority of the Sisters of the Order are now English-speaking.

It is to be recorded, with regret, that the useful and interesting exhibition of school work fell through in 1909 owing to want of support from the grant-in-aid schools. Proposals for its rehabilitation on a more practical basis are receiving consideration.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital and Dispensaries.

Victoria Hospital.

27. The number of in-patients at the Victoria Hospital was 388, the highest figure on record. There were twenty-six deaths, giving a percentage of 6·7.

The hospital was enlarged and greatly improved during 1909. An operating theatre was built, a new ward holding six beds added, the existing wards renovated, and new beds and furniture supplied throughout. In the out buildings, a *post mortem* room, a new drug store, and additional bath rooms were built, and the nurses' quarters enlarged.

An additional trained nursing sister has been added to the establishment.

The medical authorities are unanimous in urging for the establishment of a maternity home with a certificated midwife in charge. The project is now under consideration. The cottage hospital at Praslin has yet to be built.

Dispensaries.

28. There are six public dispensaries, at which 4,070 persons attended for treatment. Of these no less than 3,584 attended at the Victoria Hospital Dispensary.

BIRTH AND DEATH-RATE.

29. The death-rate for the Colony was 15·48 per mille. The average death-rate for the previous ten years was 16·84. The total number of deaths was 347; of these 110 were children under five years, included in which are 57 infants under one year.

The birth-rate for the Colony was 33·60 per mille.

The number of still-births was 46.

PRINCIPAL DISEASES.

30. An outbreak of small-pox occurred on the Quarantine Station in February and March among 28 Indians from Bombay. There were 14 cases mostly of a mild type and there were no deaths. One case occurred in the most thickly populated part of the town, but the segregation arrangements were carried out promptly and the disease was stamped out at once at a total cost of Rs. 1,032. Advantage was taken of the outbreak to re-vaccinate all adults in the Central and Northern Divisions of Mahé. 7,265 persons were vaccinated and 71 per cent. of the vaccinations proved successful.

The supply of vaccine from Europe by the monthly mails is of good quality and gives excellent results. Vaccination of infants is obligatory.

Ten cases of beri beri were admitted to the Victoria Hospital from St. Pierre Island. There were no deaths. The increase in the number of cases of tuberculosis noticed in 1908 was not maintained.

Cases of anæmia and ankylostomiasis were frequent, especially in South Mahé and the Praslin District.

LEPER ASYLUM.

31. Ten cases of leprosy were treated in the asylum at Round Island. There were two new admissions and one death. The home is excellently kept and is within easy reach of the quarters of the Assistant Medical Officer at Praslin. Ordinance No. 1 of 1909, making the notification of leprosy obligatory, has already been referred to under the heading "Legislature."

PAUPER CAMP.

32. There were seventeen paupers maintained at public expense at the close of the year. The camp is roomy, healthily situated, and kept in excellent order. The Society "La Charité," a semi-official friend-in-need organisation which receives a subsidy from Government Funds, continued to do good work in relieving the poor in their own homes.

Lunatic Asylum.

33. The new Lunatic Asylum at Anse Royale was finished during the year. It is well designed and constructed and admirably managed. There were fourteen admissions in 1909 and four patients were discharged on probation. Two female patients still remain in the asylum at Mauritius.

Savings Bank.

34. The following table gives the savings bank statistics for the last five years:—

Year.	Number of Accounts on 31st December.	Number of Accounts Opened during the Year.	Number of Accounts Closed during the Year.	Amount of Deposits on 31st December.
				Rs.
1905	307	39	34	67,852·10
1906	315	23	15	131,546·43
1907	356	49	8	158,283·03
1908	351	57	62	123,709·56
1909	310	67	108	111,720·34

The large number of accounts closed is due to the passing of a regulation whereby deposits under Rs. 5 unclaimed for five years were transferred to revenue, the accounts being closed. The amount of such deposits will be refunded to depositors on their establishing their claim.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Law Courts.

Supreme Court.

35. The Supreme Court dealt with 245 civil suits and 311 criminal prosecutions. No appeals have been lodged against decisions by the Chief Justice.

The business of the Courts shows a steady diminution on both sides, and there continues to be a marked absence of serious crime.

Police Courts.

36. There is an increase in the number of petty offences dealt with in the subordinate courts. In the Police Court of Victoria out of 671 cases instituted no less than 469 were for abusive or indecent language (181), drunkenness (169), and disturbance (119). The Justice of the Peace, South Mahé, disposed of 151 cases, and the Justice of the Peace, Praslin District, of 144 cases.

The Chief Justice, as Stipendiary Magistrate, dealt with 21 cases under the Labour Law: 44 persons were charged and 33 convicted. Forty-three persons were prosecuted under the Outlying Islands Ordinance for taking advances and not fulfilling their engagements, but all the cases were settled without imprisonment. The number of prosecutions under the Taxes Ordinance was 17, which is much the lowest on record. The taxes imposed under Ordinance No. 1 of 1907 are recovered with little trouble, in marked contrast to the difficulties encountered under the old law, No. 16 of 1900.

Volume of Judicial Work.

37. The following table shows the volume of judicial work transacted in the five years, 1905-9.

Year.	Criminal informations.	No. of persons charged.	No. of persons convicted.	No. of civil cases.*
1905	1,048	1,503	1,278	181
1906	1,212	1,575	1,436	203
1907	1,291	1,426	1,268	179
1908	1,108	1,435	1,262	212
1909	1,295	1,558	1,362	240

* Exclusive of cases referred to Court for the non-payment of taxes.

Police Force.

38. The Police Force was strengthened by the addition of a corporal and two constables, a new police station being opened at Anse aux Pins.

The efficiency of the force was well maintained.

Prison.

39. The number of persons committed to prison during 1909 was 603, viz.: 452 men and 151 women. The daily average of prisoners was 56, of whom six were women.

Twelve persons, all males, were admitted to the prison infirmary; there were no deaths. Corporal punishment was not inflicted.

The Printing Department continues to be carried on within the precincts of the Prison. Other industries carried on by prisoners include the making of baskets, mats and mattresses, book binding, carpentry and tinsmith's work.

The accommodation of the prison for females was doubled and the premises generally improved.

Prison Statistics.

40. The subjoined table shows the statistics for five years:—

Year.	Number committed.	Daily average.	Total cost.
			Rs.
1905	660	75	15,018
1906	691	70	12,110
1907	451	48	9,482
1908	491	50	9,108
1909	603	56	11,644

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

41. The population on the 31st December, 1909, was estimated at 22,409, namely, 11,474 males and 10,935 females. The births numbered 753, being 33·6 per mille; and the deaths 347, 15·4 per mille.

The number of still-births was 46.

The proportion of illegitimate births was 30 per cent., a decrease on the figures of last year.

There were 151 marriages.

The density of population is 149·59 per square mile.

Climate.

Meteorological Statistics.

42. The rainfall for the year was 79·95 inches, rain falling on 167 days. This is considerably below the average, which may be put down at 100 inches. There was, however, no prolonged period of drought. There were no exceptionally heavy falls of rain. January was the wettest month, when 18·70 inches were registered.

The south-east trade wind blew fitfully in May and June and was not thoroughly established until July. The highest velocity registered for the 24 hours was 19·5 on the 29th May, the direction of the wind being south and south-west.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Postal Statistics.

43. The volume of correspondence shows a slight falling off as compared with 1908, the number of letters and papers handled being 309,000 against 327,000 in 1908. 2,316 parcels were received and sent as compared with 2,683 in the previous year.

Mail Service.

44. The mail service continues in the hands of the Messageries Maritimes Company. Mails for Seychelles are made up in London on the 23rd and 8th of each month. The passage of the former mail, which comes direct, occupies 17 days. The latter

mail is sent via Diego Suarez, and arrives at Mahé on the 8th of the following month. Mails from and to India and Africa are carried by the German East African Line.

Money Orders.

45. The following table shows the Money Order business transacted in 1908 and 1909:—

	1908.	1909.
	Rs.	Rs.
Money and Postal Orders issued ...	283,347	243,416
Money and Postal Orders paid ...	11,858	13,844
Totals	295,205	257,260
Internal Money Orders issued and paid	4,207	7,791

The reduction in the Money Order rate to 2 per cent. made in 1908 was maintained. The accounts are adjusted through the General Post Office, and against the Money Orders issued locally remittances were sent during the year to the Crown Agents for the Colonies amounting to Rs.192,466.

Local Receipts and Expenditure.

46. The following table shows the local receipts and expenditure for the last five years:—

—	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Local receipts ...	17,265	22,033	17,206	18,424	14,147
Local expenditure ...	8,619	10,384	9,85[illegible]	10,500	11,539

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Openings for Capital.

47. Enquiries are from time to time received as to whether Seychelles provides a suitable opening for Europeans who desire to take up tropical planting. In the first place, it may be clearly laid down that the Colony is most unsuitable for white labourers of the working class without capital. Wages are low, and the European working man would find it impossible to do more than eke out a bare living. For a white man with capital, Seychelles provides as good an opening as most other tropical countries.

Coconuts and rubber thrive, and vanilla is favoured by conditions perhaps unequalled in any other part of the world. Land, however, or rather good land, is not always easy to get, and it is certainly advisable for any intending purchaser to come out and look round for himself.

The price of land may be put down at Rs.100 an acre, and for a man to succeed he should have a capital of at least £2,000.

An estate properly worked should yield a steady minimum of 12 per cent. In good vanilla years the percentage would be much higher. No planter, however, if he hopes for success, should put all his capital into vanilla, of which both yield and price are extremely capricious.

Indian and Chinese Immigration.

48. The influx of Indians, mainly from the Malabar Coast, still continues. The problem has not yet reached an acute stage, although most of the retail trade has now passed into the hands of Indians and Chinese. Both of these people are excellent shopkeepers, and, so far, the Colony has only benefitted from their introduction. At the present moment the greater portion of the valuable town property is in the hands of Indians, and the chief danger lies in the possibility of the spread of their operations to estates in the country. Generally speaking, the Indian of the class found in the Colony is quite incapable of estate management. His business is that of a shopkeeper and a money-lender, but as an agriculturist he lacks enterprise, and is apt to exhaust the land in order to gain some immediate profit before his return to his own country.

W. L. Rind,

Clerk to Governor.

6th June, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

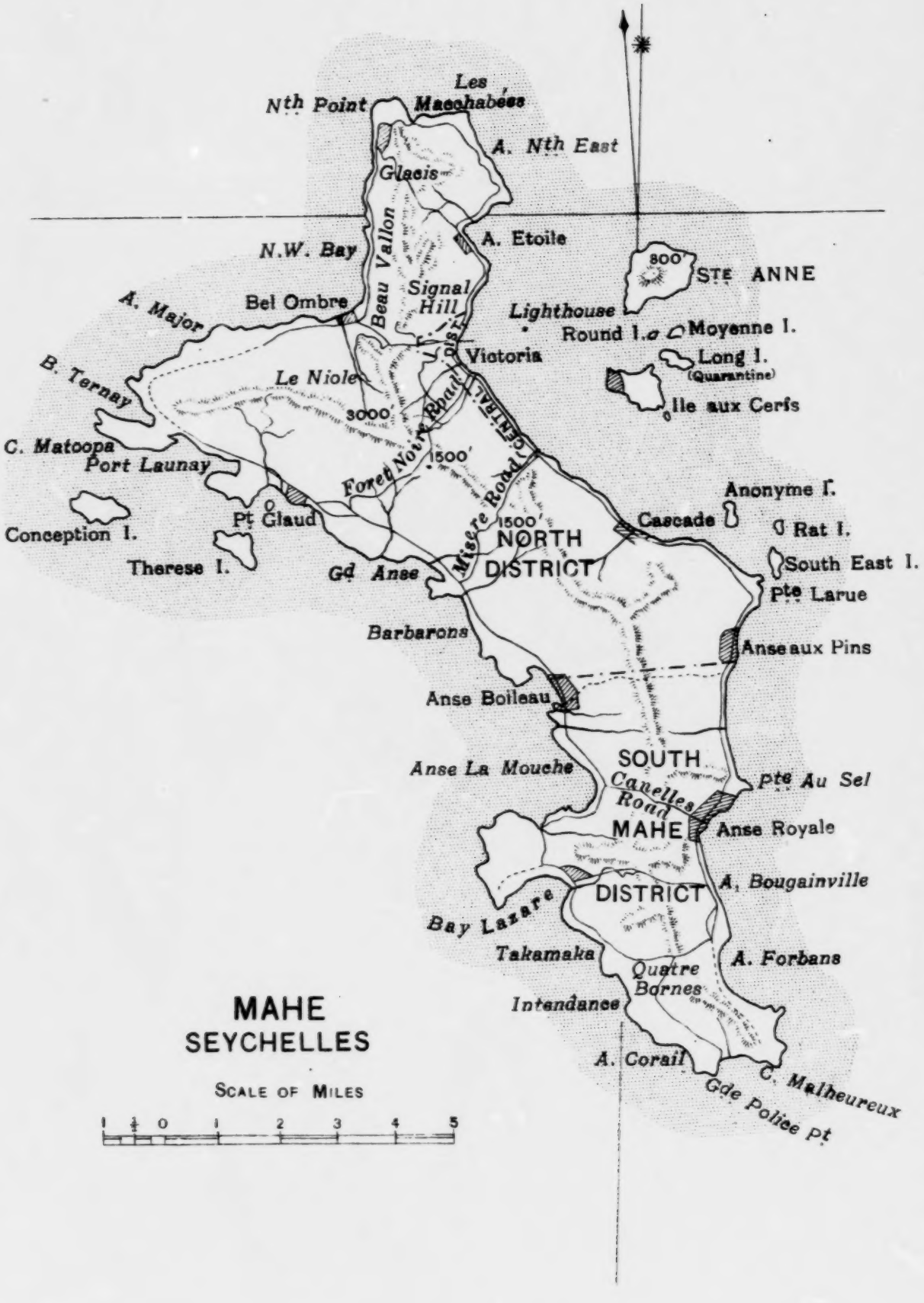
The following recent reports, &c. relating to His Majesty's Colonial possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

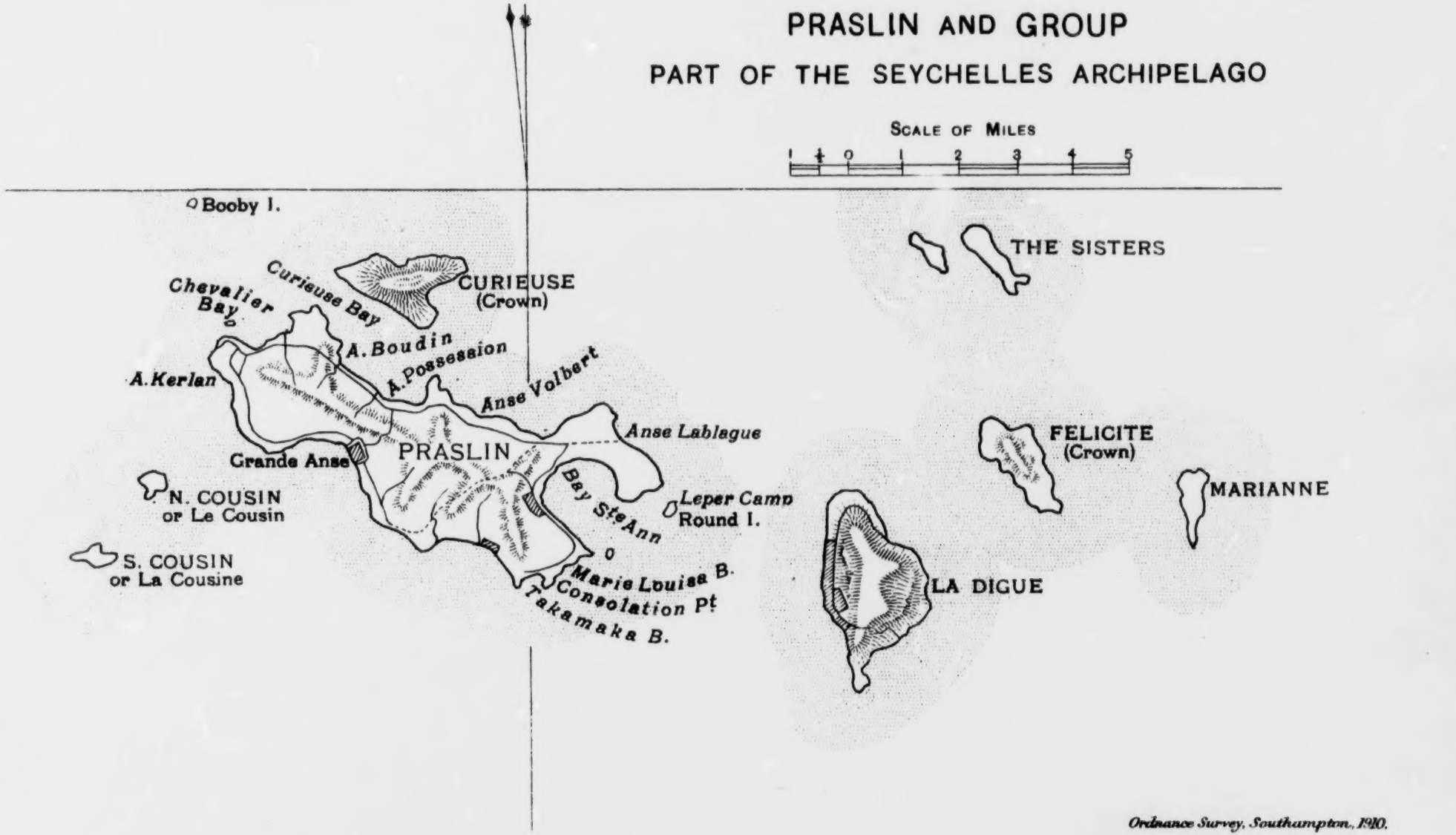
No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908–1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909–1910

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	Do. 1906–7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1910


PRASLIN AND GROUP
PART OF THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIPELAGO
SCALE OF MILES
1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5
Booby I.
THE SISTERS
CURIEUSE
(Crown)
Curieuse Bay
Chevalier Bay
A. Boudin
A. Possession
A. Kerlan
Anse Volbert
Anse Lablague
PRASLIN
Grande Anse
FELICITE
(Crown)
MARIANNE
N. COUSIN
or Le Cousin
Leper Camp
Round I.
Bay Ste Ann
S. COUSIN
or La Cousine
Marie Louise B.
Consolation Pt
Takamaka B.
LA DIGUE
Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1910.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 693.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 643.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1911.

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Sketch Maps :—Mahe and Praslin and group.

No. 693.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 643.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
7th September, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1910, together with the annual report thereon.

I have, &c.,

A. K. YOUNG,
Administrator.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(21587—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125 & 85. 11/11. D & S. A 2

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1910 amounted to Rs. 543,650, being Rs. 33,000 more than that collected in 1909 and Rs. 42,000 more than in any previous year.

2. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 491,589, being Rs. 27,500 less than in 1909.

The revenue exceeded the expenditure by Rs. 52,060.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1905 to 1910.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure for the last six years:—

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1905	375,779 ...	393,691
1906	419,932 ...	370,971
1907	501,293 ...	381,029
1908	473,836 ...	465,753
1909	511,316 ...	519,158
1910	543,650 ...	491,589

Local Boards.

4. The Local Boards, which are the general municipal and sanitary authorities, have no separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. Boards have been created for the Central District (Town of Victoria), South Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue.

There are no elections to membership of public bodies, all appointments to which are vested in the Governor.

Details of Revenue, 1909 and 1910.

5. The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1909 and 1910:—

Heads of Receipts.	1909. Rs. Cts.	1910. Rs. Cts.
1. Customs	237,331.18	264,575.76
2. Harbour Dues ...	8,010.63	10,707.54
3. Licences, &c.... ...	66,025.66	76,993.33
4. Taxes	47,455.61	47,482.49
5. Fees of Court ...	33,588.27	55,825.40
6. Post Office	14,147.05	16,967.24
7. Crown Lands ...	90,560.96	49,916.83
8. Interest	10,170.15	16,325.21
9. Miscellaneous ...	4,026.80	4,856.67
10. Land Sales	Nil.	Nil.
Total	511,316.31	543,650.47

Remarks on Details of Revenue.

6. It is satisfactory to note that, in spite of the continued shortage in the vanilla crop, the receipts from Customs and licences have exceeded by a considerable amount the figures reached last year. In the report for 1909, reference was made to the high prices obtained for local produce, especially coconuts. These prices were maintained and even exceeded in 1910, and the competition among buyers caused an inflation in prices out of all proportion to the European market rates. The results of this kind of trading are being brought to light in the current year (1911), two of the principal firms of buyers and merchants having been adjudged bankrupt. It is early at the present time to predict the result of these bankruptcies, but, although the immediate consequences may result in a temporary falling off, there seems no reason for apprehension as to the stability of the revenue and the prosperity of the Colony as a whole.

Fees of Court, as anticipated in last year's report, have given a much increased return. This is owing to, first, large succession dues, and, secondly, to the transfer of estates to the newly-formed Seychelles Rubber and Coconut Estates Company, Limited.

Under one head only, Crown Lands, is there a falling off, due entirely to the decrease in the export of guano. The increase under Interest is satisfactory, and should be well maintained in future years. The amounts due locally under the Loans to Planters Ordinance are regularly paid and their collection gives no trouble. Under this Ordinance money is advanced to planters for the improvement of their estates, repayable in five years with interest at the rate of 6 per cent. The sums advanced are secured by first line mortgages on the properties and the total amount authorised to be so invested is Rs. 150,000.

Details of Expenditure, 1909 and 1910.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1909 and 1910:—

Heads of Service.	1909. Rs. Cts.	1910. Rs. Cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	14,816.25	14,816.25
2. Pensions and Gratuities ...	11,337.34	10,865.32
3. Governor and Legislature ...	24,572.30	24,933.98
4. Treasury, Customs, and Revenue Department ...	24,950.68	24,124.48
5. Audit Department	6,420.39	7,147.83
6. Port, Marine, and Lighthouse	17,659.08	23,933.60
7. Legal Department	33,836.98	35,201.13
8. Police Department	37,467.16	37,734.21
9. Prison	11,643.93	11,302.35
10. Medical Department and Quarantine	41,037.77	42,261.07
11. Ecclesiastical Department ...	9,750.00	8,879.04
12. Education Department ...	36,218.94	33,848.13
13. Printing Department ...	3,377.67	4,284.40
14. Post Office Department ...	12,031.24	14,176.59

Heads of Service.	1909. Rs. Cts.	1910. Rs. Cts.
15. Transport	2,748.65	3,158.11
16. Botanic Station and Crown Lands Department	15,915.82	41,483.88
17. Local Board, Central District	19,860.73	18,061.94
18. Local Board, South Mahé ...	4,237.17	5,563.68
19. Local Board, Praslin	2,722.05	2,542.66
20. Local Board, La Digue ...	1,509.44	2,269.60
21. Exchange and Cost of Remittances	2,481.46	2,139.01
22. Miscellaneous	9,645.87	8,317.32
23. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	59,991.18	57,732.43
24. Public Works Department ...	11,251.47	14,814.91
25. Public Works, Recurrent ...	17,404·08	18,015·35
26. Public Works, Extraordinary	86,269·96	23,982·58
Total	519,158.11	491,589.85

Remarks on Details of Expenditure.

8. The increased expenditure under the Port Department is mainly due to the purchase and upkeep of the motor launch "Pearl." This useful boat was designed and built locally and fitted with a Thornycroft oil motor. She has proved invaluable for the general work of the harbour. The initial expenditure on a Maternity Home is largely responsible for the increase under the Medical Department. The large increase under Botanic Station and Crown Lands is due to the purchase of the central mountain zone as a forest reserve, serving the double purpose of re-afforestation and the preservation of the water supply of the town. Reference was made to this purchase in paragraph 18 of last year's report. The chief item in the expenditure under Public Works Extraordinary is the reconstruction of Denis Island Lighthouse, which was completed during the year. A new crane for landing goods was purchased, replacing an old and less powerful one which became unfit for further use.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The balance in favour of assets on the 31st December amounted to Rs. 355,235, more than double the balance in 1905, and the highest figure recorded in the history of the Colony.

Public Debt.

10. The Public Debt, which consists of a loan of £20,000 negotiated in 1899, is repayable in thirty annual instalments of capital and interest of Rs. 14,816.25, of which ten have been paid. The excess of liabilities now stands at Rs. 225,586.25.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last six years:—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1905	789,785	823,452	808,032	848,744
1906	811,366	916,397	794,681	807,781
1907	1,174,412	1,364,787	2,270,520	2,270,820
1908	1,124,691	1,150,741	1,489,125	1,657,175
1909	1,018,476	1,019,876	1,569,950	1,569,950
1910	1,343,550	1,476,933	2,242,729	2,242,729

Trade.

12. A glance at the above figures shows that the volume of trade exceeds even the *annus mirabilis*, 1907, when there was a record vanilla crop. It would be hazardous, however, to base estimates for future years on the totals for 1910. There is no doubt that the prices of colonial produce were unnaturally and unwarrantably high. In the 1909 figures copra was valued at Rs. 230 a ton, in 1910 at Rs. 325. This latter figure allows insufficient margin for freight and charges. In fact the price, apart from all charges, dropped in December last to £22 (Rs. 330) —£20 (Rs. 300). The volume of trade, on the other hand, is steadily increasing, and no reasons can be foreseen for any material falling off.

Banking.

13. The arrangements referred to in last year's report were continued throughout 1909, to the great convenience of exporters and traders generally. Government interference in this matter will most probably be no longer necessary, as the establishment of a branch bank has now been decided on. There is from time to time a shortage of silver in the Colony. A great deal is exported by Indian traders—much more than is declared at the Customs—as the Indian shopkeeper takes his rupees with him in his baggage without declaring or insuring it. It is also highly probable that a quantity of silver is hoarded and kept out of circulation. To remedy this the Government imports silver from Mauritius in exchange for worn-out Mauritius currency notes.

Currency.

14. The currency remains unchanged. Legal tender consists of the Indian rupee, half rupee, and quarter rupee with the subsidiary coinage of Mauritius, 20 cents and 10 cents (silver), and 5 cents, 2 cents, and 1 cent (bronze). Mauritius currency notes are in general use. English gold and Bank of England notes are accepted at par by the Treasury.

Exports and Imports.

Exports.

15. The following statement shows the value of exports:—

	Rs.	Rs.
To the United Kingdom ...	533,633	
To British Possessions	75,316	
		608,949
Foreign Countries		1,533,781
Total		2,242,730

The most important items exported to the United Kingdom were:—

	Rs.
Vanilla	202,057
Copra	148,067
Guano	101,940
Calipee	42,449
Tortoiseshell	33,639

As the export of copra goes up, that of coconuts and coconut oil, the main products, exported to British Possessions (India and Mauritius), decreases.

France.—Copra is mainly responsible for the largeness of the share of France and French Possessions, Rs. 592,127 out of a total of Rs. 736,597, representing the value of copra shipped to Marseilles.

Germany.—A large portion of this copra, however, goes on to Germany, which country takes yearly a larger share of the Colony's products.

The items are interesting:—

	Rs.
Vanilla	208,282
Guano	191,672
Copra (shipped direct) ...	122,663
Cinnamon bark	33,464
Mangrove bark	16,497

The total German trade in Seychelles export amounts to Rs. 596,422, to which must be added the copra sent to Germany from Marseilles. Six years ago the annual German trade was limited to a few packets of vanilla and an occasional parcel of tortoiseshell.

Belgium.—Belgium took one-third of the guano exported, valued at Rs. 284,010.

Details of Exports.

16. The produce of the Colony exported in 1910 was:—

	Valued at Rs.
1. Copra.—2,657 tons	862,857
2. Guano.—20,093 tons	628,532
3. Vanilla.—26 tons	450,289

	Valued at Rs.
4. Soap.—138 tons	60,011
5. Cinnamon bark.—731 tons ...	50,433
6. Calipee.—12¾ tons	42,449
7. Tortoiseshell.—1 ton	37,515
8. Re-exports	32,124
9. Coconut oil.—346 hectolitres ...	17,623
10. Mangrove bark.—531 tons ...	16,497

Other items in order of value are boats (12 valued at Rs. 13,200, for service of French guano islands, for which Mahé is now the distributing centre—*vide* item 8 above); coconuts, cloves, straw plait, bone dust, essential oils, cocos-de-mer, salted lemons, vacoa mats, timber.

Among items valued at less than Rs. 1,000 are: Dried fish, cacao, coffee, tobacco, rum, and turtle oil.

General Remarks on Exports.

17. The export of copra has risen steadily, and with improved methods of cultivation should continue to progress.

The export of soap and other products of the coconut palm will only show an increase when there is a considerable fall in the price of copra, but the quantity of nuts collected is steadily advancing.

A moderate crop only of vanilla was harvested. Vanilla plantations are being gradually restricted to the higher zones of the mountains owing to successive dry seasons. With the legislation in France and the United States restricting artificial substitutes, there has been a continuance of the remunerative prices of the past two years, and as there is a growing reluctance on the part of manufacturers to use the artificial vanillin there seems no reason why vanilla cultivation should not continue to form one of the principal industries of the Colony. I am aware that this opinion is contrary to that of a number of experts. When in England in 1907, I was told by a distinguished man of science, whose researches have been mainly connected with tropical products, that plantation vanilla was in its death throes. In that year the Seychelles crop realised a million rupees; the price rose steadily (apart from a temporary drop in 1908) and good prices have ruled ever since. It is not as if vanilla has to be cultivated at the expense of less capricious products: the orchid will grow and thrive where coconuts and rubber will not. It is true that the yield fluctuates considerably, but even the famine harvest of 1909 (11 tons) realised over Rs. 200,000, and was third in value in the exports for that year.

Calipee has risen to sixth on the list of exports. The whole of the commodity is absorbed in the United Kingdom.

Tortoiseshell may show a very substantial increase in future years, as artificial rearing in enclosed areas is being tried, and the promoters appear confident of success. If the hawksbill turtle can be reared to maturity, the profit in these ventures should prove enormous.

Straw plait from the coco-de-mer straw has been tried, but the venture does not promise well. In any case the restricted area of the growth of these palms would tell against any considerable expansion.

The manufacture of rum is likely to cease, as the natives of Seychelles, though inveterate drinkers of this spirit, show a decided aversion to the locally-manufactured article. The distillery is no longer working, and the total stock has been exported by the assignees in the bankruptcy of the firm which carried on the business. The stock was offered for sale locally, and the highest tender was at the rate of five cents a litre.

Imports.

18. The following statement shows the distribution of imports according to countries of origin:—

	Rs.	Rs.
From the United Kingdom ...	403,736	
From British Possessions	783,980	
		1,187,716
From Foreign Countries		289,217
Total		1,476,933

The British Possessions are:—

	Rs.
India	485,663
Mauritius	241,880
Aden	30,846
Zanzibar	8,616
Others	16,976
	783,981

The Foreign Possessions are:—

	Rs.
France	242,011
French Possessions	15,255
Germany	29,184
Holland	1,669
Switzerland	836
Nine others	261
	289,217

The following are the items exceeding Rs. 10,000 in value:—

United Kingdom.—Cotton goods (Rs. 92,891), haberdashery (Rs. 46,624), iron goods (Rs. 35,972), coal (Rs. 25,784), provisions (Rs. 19,959), articles de mode (Rs. 16,750), leather boots (Rs. 16,383), soap (Rs. 12,117).

British India.—Rice (Rs. 241,552), cotton goods (Rs. 102,342), flour (Rs. 33,890), wearing apparel (Rs. 12,000), Dholl (Rs. 10,960).

Mauritius.—Specie (Rs. 132,685), sugar (Rs. 66,295), gunny bags (Rs. 15,557), rum (Rs. 12,145).

Aden.—Coffee (Rs. 28,060).

France.—Wines and spirits (Rs. 76,679), clothes (Rs. 48,000, about), lighthouse material (Rs. 32,490), machinery (Rs. 14,254).

Germany.—Iron goods (Rs. 16,782).

Main Heads of Imports.—Taking a general classification, the main heads are:—

	Rs.
Foodstuffs	487,435
Clothing	345,394
Manufactured goods ...	286,709
Wines and spirits	100,187
Machinery	28,554
Raw materials	27,559

General Remarks on Imports.

19. There is little to remark beyond a general increase. The United Kingdom (27·3 per cent.) and British Possessions (53·1 per cent.) maintain the high percentage of previous years. The only item which shows a large increase on that of last year is foodstuffs, which has increased by Rs. 100,000.

Manufactures, Fisheries, and Agriculture.

Manufactures.

20. There is little to add to the reports of previous years. The rum distillery worked for about half the year, but, as stated above, there is little likelihood of this industry being continued. The venture has so far proved a financial failure.

The engineering works owned by Messrs. Pare, Newsam, and Pare (Messrs. Baty Bergne & Co.'s successors) accomplished the unusual feat of fitting a new propeller to an ocean going steamer which lost her propeller on a voyage from Mauritius to Hong Kong, and drifted on to the Seychelles Bank. The work was one of considerable difficulty, as it had to be performed from lighters in the open harbour.

Fisheries.

21. There has been considerable expansion in the trade in calipee, but other products of the sea have remained stationary. Little result has so far been obtained in the matter of the fishing of sponges and mother-of-pearl shell. A fishing syndicate was in formation at the close of the year, but its efforts are mainly directed to the supply of the local market, and it is extremely doubtful whether it will prove a success. That there is room for the development of fisheries is unquestionable, as the waters of the Colony teem with fish.

The following table gives the exports in 1910 of the various products of the sea:—

	Rs.
Calipee	42,449
Tortoiseshell	37,515
Dried fish	800
Shark fins	564
Turtle oil	220
Trepangs (Bêche de mer) ...	125
	81,713

Agriculture.

22. The standard of cultivation is being steadily raised as is evidenced by the regular increased yield of coconuts. The planting of Para rubber has continued on a more extensive scale owing to the acquisition of a number of estates by a company styled the Seychelles Rubber and Coconut Estates Co., Ltd. This company was floated during the year, and purchased a number of good estates. The price paid for the land was relatively high, but the vendors accepted a large proportion of the purchase price in shares. Under the present energetic management the operations of the company should have a beneficial effect on the agricultural progress of the Colony.

Insect Pests.

23. The scale insects referred to in the reports for 1908 and 1909 are as numerous as ever. Ladybirds, which are their natural foe, were introduced from Mauritius, but the experiment was without visible result. A number of planters now use sprayers regularly, but sprayers can only operate in restricted areas.

Crown Lands.

24. There were no grants of Crown Lands during the year except a small building site which was conveyed in trust to the Carnegie Library Board, for the erection of the library.

Shipping.

Shipping Statistics.

25. The following tables gives the total tonnage entered and cleared by nationalities:—

Nationality.	Total tonnage.
British	144,058
French	117,880
German	87,170
Portuguese	6,060
Dutch	5,626
Italian	5,600
Norwegian	5,008
Russian	1,992
	373,394

During the year the harbour was visited by seven men of war, two of which were British.

S.L. "Alexandra."

26. The "Alexandra" performed 66 voyages to the outlying islands, and carried 189 Government officers and employees and 751 paying passengers. She was also employed in towing the S.S. "Taiwan" 18 miles through the open sea in rough weather. Rs. 2,330 were received for the conveyance of passengers and Rs. 822 for towage. Owing to extensive repairs to the machinery and bunkers the "Alexandra" was laid up for four months during which she was replaced by the cutter "Wave."

Motor Launch "Pearl."

27. This most useful boat was delivered in April, and has been in almost daily use ever since. She made 187 trips to the outer harbour and quarantine stations, and was also chartered by private parties.

Cutter "Wave."

28. The "Wave" was most serviceable in connection with the erection of the lighthouse at Denis Island, to which she made 17 trips. She also made 14 trips to the Praslin group, carrying 130 passengers.

Lighthouses.

29. The Victoria lighthouse was improved by the substitution of a powerful Kitson lamp in place of the old lantern burning coconut oil.

The old lighthouse at Denis Island was replaced during the year by an iron tower with a revolving light. The light has been kept in good order and is a great improvement on the old fixed light, which is to be re-erected on Mamelles Island.

Casualties.

30. There were several shipping casualties during the year, two of which were attended with loss of life.

The loss of the "Sea Queen" is reported in detail under the heading miscellaneous. On the day the "Sea Queen" left the harbour a whale-boat with three persons was blown out to sea and never heard of again.

In July the S.S. "Taiwan," carrying several hundreds of Chinese passengers on their way from Mauritius to Hong Kong, lost her propeller 600 miles from Mahé, and after drifting northwards anchored about 18 miles from the harbour. She was towed in by the "Alexandra," which had the assistance of a smaller launch. The weather was rough, and the towage was both difficult and dangerous. A new propeller was fitted to the "Taiwan," and she finally sailed for Hong Kong.

III.—LEGISLATION.

31. There were 19 Ordinances passed during the year. The principal of them were:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance providing for an increase of the sum of Rs. 100,000 to that of Rs. 150,000, as being the amount available for loans to planters under the conditions imposed by Ordinance No. 4 of 1904. Owing to the satisfactory results obtained under the existing law, the Government felt justified in increasing the sum available.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the laws on licences. This Ordinance abolishes the principle which had been in force from time immemorial, that every person exercising any trade, art, or calling, unless especially exempted, must be licensed. Under the present law those trades only which are scheduled have to be licensed.

The Ordinance contains much in addition to the actual amounts payable thereunder for various licences. It provides, *inter alia*, for the management of licensed premises, and for the selling of liquor to children—penalties are imposed for the selling of rum under standard strength and for the selling of fraudulent brands of wine and spirits.

The Ordinance also traces out the legal procedure lawful in the enforcement of its provisions. It may be regarded as a most useful piece of legislation.

No. 9.—The Attornies Amendment Ordinance, which provides for the admission to practise of barristers and attorneys. A fee of Rs. 375 (£25) is to be paid on admission.

No. 11.—An Ordinance to make provision for the promotion of education in Seychelles.

No. 12.—An Ordinance to amend the law with regard to Seychelles English scholarships.

These Ordinances mark a new era in the educational history of the Colony. Ordinance No. 11 establishes an institution called, with His Majesty's permission, "King's College," and by Ordinance No. 12 Government scholarships are provided, open to pupils of King's College only. This Ordinance repeals the former law whereby Government scholarships were open to all Seychelles candidates who were British subjects educated in any one of the Seychelles schools, and certain other candidates.

No. 14.—An Ordinance to amend the Quarantine Ordinance. This Ordinance provides for the admission of vessels to what is termed "partial pratique." This Ordinance is very useful in its application, more especially in dealing with vessels arriving from the East, cases may arise in which, although there is not sufficient cause to justify the imposition of strict quarantine, yet in the circumstances it is undesirable to admit such vessels to free and unrestricted pratique.

In such cases the law empowers the Health Officer to admit the vessel and its passengers to a modified form of pratique.

No. 19.—To make provision for the levying of harbour dues in Seychelles. This Ordinance, in addition to providing for the rates chargeable for pilotage, towage, and light dues, also levies a water rate of 50 cts. per ton on fresh water supplied by lighter-

men and others to shipping—ships of war and private yachts are exempt from anchorage and light dues. Vessels calling for orders only pay a uniform charge of Rs. 15. The fundamental principle regulating the charges is based on the amount of cargo handled with a minimum charge of thirty rupees.

IV.—EDUCATION.

32. Considerable changes have taken place, affecting particularly secondary education. Ordinance 30 of 1900, and more recent Ordinances supplementary to it, have been repealed and replaced by Ordinance 11 of 1910.

The most important changes made are:—(1) The establishment of a governing body of education, in place of an education committee. This new body has power to frame regulations which required the assent of the Governor in Executive Council; (2) The creation of a new secondary college—King's College—to which a new scholarship is confined; (3) The provision of grants to affiliated schools, *i.e.*, elementary schools prepared to act as feeders to the newly established King's College.

A further change is the separation of the paying and non-paying branches of the Victoria School, the non-paying branch now known as the Government Free School being accommodated in a separate building. Under the new Ordinance new regulations have been passed for (*a*) Grant-in-aid schools, (*b*) King's College, (*c*) Victoria School and the Government Free School. Regulations for affiliated schools, and revised regulations for the higher education of girls are not yet passed.

School Attendance.

33. The number of pupils attending the schools of the Colony, Government, grant-aided, and private schools, is 2,722, as compared with 2,659 in 1909. The figures include an attendance of 36 at the non-aided Roman Catholic School at Port Glaud, Mahé, and of 33 at the private boarding school, conducted by Miss Pillieron, Victoria.

The average attendance at these schools (exclusive of Port Glaud School) is 2,023 as compared with 1,986 in 1909.

Grant-in-aid Schools.

34. The number of grant-in-aid schools inspected and examined in 1910 was 24, as in 1909. Twenty of these schools are controlled by the Roman Catholic Mission, and were attended by 1,974 children, a decrease of 34 on the figures of 1909 (2,008). The remaining four are Church of England schools, with 196 scholars on the register (172 in 1909). The total number of pupils attending the grant-in-aid schools is 2,170 as compared with 2,180 in 1909. The total average attendance is 1,600 (in 1909—1,638).

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Victoria Hospital.

35. There were 480 in-patients treated in the hospital in 1910, exceeding by 100 the number in 1909, which was the highest recorded. There were thirty deaths, giving a percentage of 6·25. Sixteen persons suffering from beri-beri were treated, of whom three died. This disease appears to be decreasing rapidly with the use of nitrogenous foods. There were eleven cases of, and three deaths from, tubercular complaints, and two deaths out of eight cases of cancer.

Dispensaries.

36. There are six public dispensaries, at which 3,195 persons received treatment, 2,004 of whom attended at the Victoria hospital dispensary. The numbers show a large decrease (25 per cent.) which is satisfactory inasmuch as it has always been evident that the privilege of free treatment has been abused.

Birth and Death Rate.

37. The death rate was 16·26, which is almost exactly the average for the previous eleven years. The total number of deaths was 368; of these 96 were children under one year. There were 54 still births, 14 twin births, and one case of triple birth. The birth rate for the Colony was 31·35.

Principal Diseases.

38. There was a small outbreak of beri-beri on Coetivy Island, which was promptly checked by a change of diet among the labourers. An assistant medical officer visited the island, and with the substitution of Bengal for Rangoon rice no further cases occurred. The Chief Medical Officer notes that all previous cases were of the œdematous type, while all the cases from Coetivy were of the emaciated type. Tuberculosis appears to be stationary, but the medical officers report an increase in venereal disease and in the number of infants suffering from the congenital form of the disease.

The supply of vaccine from Europe by the monthly mail continues to give excellent results. There were 600 vaccinations; 591 proved successful the first time, and the remaining nine the second time. There were no failures.

Leper Asylum.

39. Nine cases of leprosy were treated in the Round Island Asylum. There were no admissions and one death. The home is well kept, and constantly visited by the Assistant Medical Officer at Praslin. Experiments are being made with the new treatment—Nastin—which is stated to have proved efficacious in British Guiana. The experiments are of too recent date for any pronouncement to be made at this stage, but the patients take readily to the treatment.

Pauper Camp.

40. There were 23 paupers maintained at the public cost at the end of the year. The camp is roomy, healthily situated, and kept in excellent order. The incorporated society, "La Charité," aids in relieving the needy poor in their own houses.

Lunatic Asylum.

41. This admirable institution is now in full working order. It is most beautifully kept, and the Assistant Medical Officer, to whom the highest credit is due, has accomplished the seemingly impossible task of training a local staff in efficiency and smartness. The building and equipment are kept spotlessly clean and amusements are regularly organised to brighten the lives of the inmates. Two males and one female were discharged as cured. One male patient died and 22 patients remained at the close of the year.

Maternity Home.

42. Arrangements were made during the year to establish a maternity home. Owing to structural alterations in the building being required, the house was not ready for occupation at the end of the year.

One of the main objects of the institution will be the training of midwives.

Savings Bank.

43. Rs. 90,562.23 remained to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1910, being Rs. 20,000 less than the balance at the close of 1909. Sixty-one new accounts were opened and 37 closed, the total number of depositors having risen from 310 to 334.

Rs. 1,752.29 was paid for interest to depositors, and Rs. 2,642.25 received as interest from the investments, the market value of which was Rs. 77,405.29.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

Law Courts.

Supreme Court.

44. The Supreme Court dealt with 302 cases as compared with 245 during the previous year. One case went to appeal during the year.

There were 354 persons charged in criminal cases before the Supreme Court. 219 were prosecuted at the request of the Crown, resulting in 189 convictions and 29 acquittals, one person being discharged for want of prosecution. Three cases of

larceny with breaking, and one case of forgery were the most serious crimes, the longest term of imprisonment imposed being two years.

Police Court.

45. There was a large increase in the number of cases brought before the Police Magistrate. There were 1,044 cases in which 1,402 persons were charged, of whom 90 were acquitted. Drunkenness (385) and disturbance (474) again are responsible for the greater number of cases.

The Justice of the Peace at South Mahé, dealt with 204 cases as against 179 in 1909, and the Justice of the Peace, Praslin, with 281, as against 144.

Five persons only were prosecuted and convicted in connection with the declaration and payment of taxes. The satisfactory decrease under this head was remarked on in last year's report.

Volume of Judicial Work.

46. The following table shows the volume of judicial work transacted in the five years 1906-1910:—

Year.	Criminal Informations.	Number of persons charged.	Number of persons convicted.	Number of Civil Cases.*
1906	1,212	1,575	1,436	203
1907	1,291	1,426	1,268	179
1908	1,108	1,435	1,262	212
1909	1,295	1,558	1,362	245
1910	1,529	2,229	1,960	302

* Exclusive of cases referred to Court for the non payment of taxes.

Police Force.

47. The Police Force consists of an Inspector and 62 non-commissioned officers and men. The efficiency of the force was well maintained. A proposal is under consideration for the training of cadets. It is hoped that a better class of young men will be obtained to be trained as non-commissioned officers.

Prison.

48. The number of persons committed to prison during 1910 was 518 (as against 603 in 1909), namely 368 men and 150 women. The daily average of prisoners was 50, of whom six were women.

Eleven persons, all male, were admitted to the prison infirmary. There were no deaths. Corporal punishment was once inflicted, with the result that an apparently hopeless recalcitrant has developed into a useful, well behaved prisoner. This occasion was the first for more than ten years on which corporal punishment had been inflicted.

Prison Statistics.

The subjoined table shows the statistics for five years:—

Year.	Number committed.	Daily average.	Total costs.
			Rs.
1906	691	70	12,110
1907	451	48	9,482
1908	491	50	9,108
1909	603	56	11,644
1910	538	50	11,302

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

49. The population on the 31st December, 1910, was estimated at 22,620, namely, 11,522 males and 11,098 females. The births numbered 709, being 31·35 per mille, and the deaths 368, being 16·26 per mille.

There were 119 marriages.

The density of the population is 145 to the square mile, as against 143·59 in 1909.

Climate.

Meteorological Statistics.

50. The rainfall was again short, reaching only 83·31 inches. There was a severe drought from June to October. In the latter month only 0·03 inch was recorded.

The mean temperature was 79·5. April was the hottest and August the coolest month of the year.

The south-east trade wind began to blow fitfully in May, and continued with average force up till the beginning of October.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

Postal Statistics.

51. There was a slight increase in the volume of correspondence, 313,600 letters and papers being handled as against 309,000 in the previous year. 2,584 parcels were received and sent as compared with 2,316 in 1909.

Postal Service.

52. A number of improvements were effected in the service among which may be mentioned:—

(1) The institution of a telegraphic money order system with Aden and Bombay.

(2) The extension to the Colony of the cash on delivery service.
(3) Improved arrangements for advertising the departure of outward mails.
(4) The extension of the postal order service to the outstations.
(5) A delivery service for the adjacent islands.

Mail Service.

53. The mail service is performed by the Messageries Maritimes Company, who receive a subsidy from the local Government. Mails for Seychelles are made up in London on the 8th and 23rd of each month, arriving on the 8th and 11th of the following month. Mails for Africa and India are carried by British India and German East Africa Company's steamers.

Money Orders.

54. The following table shows the Money Order business transacted in 1909 and 1910:—

	1909.	1910.
	Rs.	Rs.
Money and Postal Orders issued ...	243,416	158,878
Money and Postal Orders paid ...	13,844	12,665
	257,260	171,543
Internal Money Orders issued and paid	7,791	7,849

Local Receipts and Expenditure.

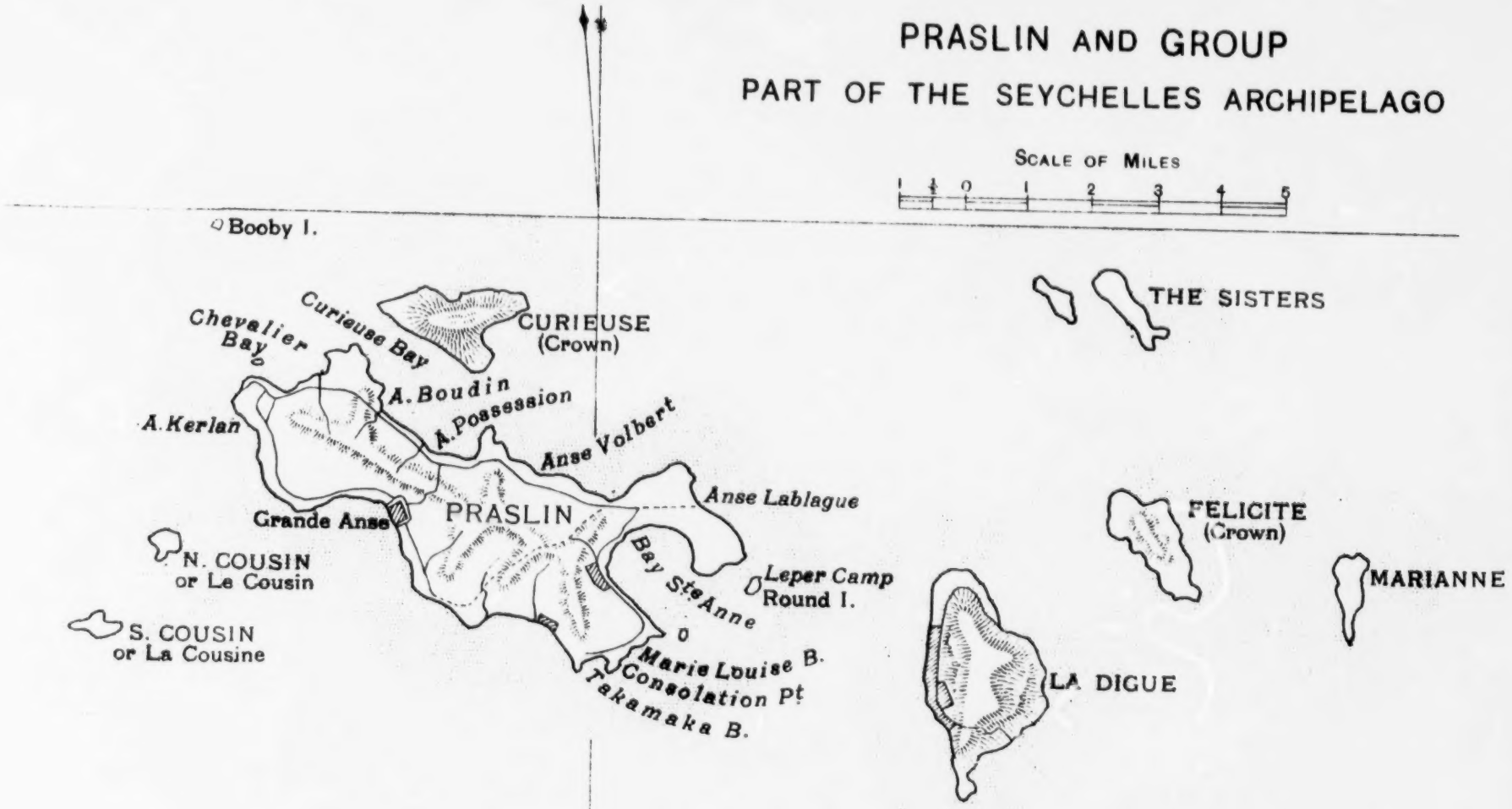
55. The following table shows the local receipts and expenditure for the last five years.

—	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts	22,033	17,206	18,424	14,147	16,967
Expenditure ...	10,384	9,853	10,500	11,539	10,629

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Carnegie Public Library.

56. Owing to the munificence of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the Colony is now provided with a commodious library with a large upper story, which is at present used as a public hall under the management of the library. Mr. Carnegie gave £2,000 for the building, and a special vote was passed by the Legislative Council for the purchase of a nucleus collection of books. The library was formally opened by the Governor on the 22nd January, 1910. Throughout the year it has been constantly used by a number of people. The library contains upwards of 3,000 volumes, in-



Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1911.

MAHE
SEYCHELLES

SCALE OF MILES

1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5

A New Road
B —Do—
C —Do—
D.E.F. Roads to be constructed in 1911.

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1911.

cluding a number of books relating to Seychelles and the Indian Ocean islands generally. A speciality has been made of the agricultural and science sections, which are well equipped with up-to-date works. The number of readers averages about 300 a month, and about 450 books a month are taken out in the lending library.

57. The library has a manuscript subject catalogue in 62 main sections, and a printed author's index to the catalogue. The open access system is adopted, and there have been no thefts reported.

Loss of the "Sea Queen."

58. The year provided one of those remarkable incidents of the sea that read more like a chapter from Clark Russell than a veritable narrative of facts.

On the 8th January, 1910, the schooner-rigged boat "Sea Queen," 25 feet long, left the Port of Victoria with a cargo of rice for Anse Royale, which is twelve miles away. The weather was very bad, and the boat was unable to make the pass in the reef at Anse Royale, and was blown out ta sea. Searches were made, but proved of no avail, and the boat, with Athenodore Vidot (coxswain), Henry Clothilde, and Josué Green, who formed the crew, was given up for lost.

On the 15th February the boat was sighted by the S.S. "Heliopolis," bound from China to Durban, in Lat. 9.39 S. and Long. 53.39 E. The boat was then 370 miles S.S.E. of Mahé, and the nearest land was Farquhar Island, 170 miles distant to the westward. It appears that the captain of the "Heliopolis" replenished the provisions on board the boat, gave the crew fresh clothes, and set them a course to follow.

On the 9th May the "Sea Queen" was picked up by the S.S. "Telemachus" in Lat. 9.38 N. and Long. 65.34 E., about 1,400 miles N.N.E. from its position on the 15th February. When picked up two of the crew had perished, the corpse of one being still on board, but the third, Josué Green, thanks to the kindly offices of Captain J. H. Goodwin, the master of the "Telemachus," recovered, and is now as well as he has ever been. The boat had been 122 days in the open ocean, and had travelled upwards of 1,800 miles.

W. L. Rind,
Clerk to the Governor.

3rd September, 1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
658	Grenada	1909
659	Hong Kong...	"
660	Barbados	1909–1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	"
664	Trinidad and Tobago	"
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"
667	British Honduras	"
668	St. Vincent	1909–1910
669	East Africa Protectorate	"
670	Uganda	"
671	British Guiana	"
672	St. Lucia	1909
673	Leeward Islands	1909–1910
674	Northern Nigeria	1909
675	St. Helena	1910
676	Gibraltar	"
677	Basutoland	1909–1910
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	"
680	Ashanti	"
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
682	Falkland Islands	"
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	"
686	Malta	"
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	"
689	Fiji	"
690	Somaliland	1910–1911
691	Hong Kong...	1910
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.

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1911.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 721.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 693.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1911.

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MAP.

No. 721.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 693.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
28th June, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the annual report on the Blue Book for 1911.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DAVIDSON,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(25731—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 8/12. D & S.

BLUE BOOK REPORT.

I.—FINANCIAL.

Revenue.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1911 amounted to Rs. 545,356.37, being Rs. 1,705.90 more than the revenue collected in 1910, when the total was Rs. 33,000 higher than in any previous year.

2. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 512,267.62, being Rs. 20,677.77 more than in 1910.

Revenue and Expenditure, 1905 to 1911.

3. The following table gives the total revenue and expenditure for the last six years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
1905	375,779 ...	393,691
1906	419,932 ...	370,971
1907	501,293 ...	381,029
1908	473,836 ...	465,753
1909	511,316 ...	519,158
1910	543,650 ...	491,589
1911	545,356 ...	512,167

The direct taxes were reduced in 1908.

Local Boards.

4. The Local Boards, which are the general municipal and sanitary authorities, have no separate funds of their own, and their expenditure is limited by annual votes of the Legislature. Boards have been created for the Central District (town of Victoria), South Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue.

There are no elections to membership of public bodies, all appointments to which are vested in the Governor.

Details of Revenue, 1910 and 1911.

5. The following table gives the details of revenue for the years 1910 and 1911:—

Heads of Receipts.	1910. Rs. Cts.	1911. Rs. Cts.
1. Customs	264,575.76	252,833.66
2. Harbour Dues ...	10,707.54	10,317.35
3. Licences, Excise, &c....	76,993.33	71,109.67
4. Taxes.	47,482.49	48,617.05
5. Fees of Court	55,825.40	58,306.90
6. Post Office	16,967.24	17,471.20
7. Crown Lands	49,916.83	65,823.74
8. Interest	16,325.21	12,970.84
9. Miscellaneous ...	4,856.67	7,905.87

6. The receipts from Customs are short of those in 1910, but are higher than in any previous year. The falling off under this head and under Licences may be attributed to the shortage on the crop of copra and to the failure of vanilla for the fourth year in succession.

Less than one-tenth of the revenue is derived from direct taxation.

The Government advances money to planters, under the Loans to Planters Ordinance, for the improvement of estates, at the rate of 6 per cent. No losses have been incurred by the Government under this law. The Government has, however, withdrawn from its banking business, in view of the establishment in 1911 of a branch of the Bank of Mauritius.

Details of Expenditure.

7. The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1910 and 1911:—

Heads of Service.	1910. Rs. Cts.	1911. Rs. Cts.
1. Charge on account of Public Debt	14,816.25	14,816.25
2. Pensions	10,865.32	13,557.22
3. Governor and Legislature ...	24,933.98	26,157.80
4. Treasury, Customs, &c.	24,124.48	23,818.76
5. Audit Department	7,147.83	6,167.97
6. Port, Marine, &c.	23,933.60	20,124.65
7. Legal Department	35,201.13	35,611.58
8. Police Department	37,734.21	38,909.21
9. Prison Department	11,302.35	11,715.05
10. Medical Department	42,261.07	47,393.29
11. Ecclesiastical Department ...	8,879.04	9,750.00
12. Education Department	33,848.13	37,054.63
13. Printing Department	4,284.40	3,776.15
14. Post Office	14,176.59	17,333.61
15. Transport	3,158.11	4,928.12
16. Botanic Station	41,483.88	19,278.15
17. Local Board, Central District ...	18,061.94	23,978.05
18. Local Board, South Mahé District	5,563.68	5,226.72
19. Local Board, Praslin	2,542.66	3,854.00
20. Local Board, La Digue	2,269.60	1,653.07
21. Exchange	2,139.01	3,434.21
22. Miscellaneous	8,317.32	17,297.87
23. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies	57,732.43	57,750.00
24. Public Works Department ...	14,814.91	14,689.57
25. Public Works Recurrent ...	18,015.35	18,980.20
26. Public Works Extraordinary ...	23,982.58	36,003.35
Total	491,589.85	512,267.62

Remarks on Details of Expenditure.

8. The principal item of extraordinary expenditure has been (Rs. 17,559) on the building of a new Government House, which

will cost about Rs. 75,000. A new lighthouse has been erected on Mamelles Island, midway between Mahé and Praslin. A maternity home has been established and has, after some preliminary difficulties, proved to be a great success; and the premises already require extension. A new trunk road across the mountains between Anse aux Pins and Anse Boileau has been commenced and numerous improvements in road extension, buildings, and water-works have been concluded.

Assets and Liabilities.

9. The balance in favour of assets on the 31st December amounted to Rs. 388,324.44, the highest figures recorded in the history of the Colony and nearly three times as much as the balance in 1905. This statement does not take into account the value of landed property acquired by the Crown, such as the central mountain range now styled the New Forest, which was purchased in 1909 with the object of conserving the sources of the water supply and securing the maintenance of the forest area on high altitudes.

Public Debt.

10. The Public Debt consists of a loan of £20,000 negotiated in 1899, and repayable in thirty annual instalments of capital and interest of Rs. 14,816.25, of which eleven have been paid.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

Imports and Exports.

11. In the following table is given the total value of imports and exports, with and without specie, for the last six years:—

Year.	Imports without specie.	Imports with specie.	Exports without specie.	Exports with specie.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1906	811,366	916,397	794,681	807,781
1907	1,174,412	1,364,787	2,270,520	2,270,820
1908	1,124,691	1,150,741	1,489,125	1,657,175
1909	1,018,476	1,019,876	1,569,950	1,569,950
1910	1,343,550	1,476,933	2,242,729	2,242,729
1911	1,201,833	1,351,833	1,903,800	1,903,800

Trade, Banking, and Currency.

12. There occurred two bankruptcies during the year among the exporting firms, which should have the effect of curtailing the methods of unrestricted credit which had unfortunately been extended by some European firms. The establishment at the end of the year of a branch of the Bank of Mauritius should have

a good effect in preventing a repetition of the errors which led to these failures. The prices for colonial produce were maintained throughout the year at a high level, affording a substantial margin of profit to planters whose estates are free from debt.

The currency remains unchanged. Legal tender consists of the Indian rupee, half rupee, and quarter rupee, with the subsidiary coinage of Mauritius, 20 cents and 10 cents (silver) and 5 cents, 2 cents, and 1 cent (bronze). Mauritius currency notes are in general use. English gold and Bank of England notes are accepted at par by the Treasury.

EXPORTS.

13. The following statement shows the value of exports:—

	Rs.	Rs.
To the United Kingdom ...	306,597.47	
To the British Possessions ...	166,798.65	
		473,396.12
Foreign Countries		1,430,403.53
Total		1,903,799.65

This total includes imported articles to the value of Rs. 28,634 re-exported for use in certain islands dependent on the French Colony of Madagascar, which are being developed by the Mahé Syndicate, Limited, Mahé being used by this Company as its distributing centre.

14. The distribution of these exports according to the port of destination presents the following figures in comparison with those for 1910:—

Destination.	1910. Rs.	1911. Rs.
United Kingdom ...	533,633	306,597
British Possessions ...	75,316	166,798
Foreign Countries ...	1,633,781	1,450,403
Total	2,242,730	1,903,800

The articles exported to the United Kingdom include—

	Valued at Rs.
Vanilla (tons 5·8)	117,807
Guano (tons 3,714)	111,420
Coprah (tons 112)	31,607

The British Possessions to which produce has been exported include Aden (coconuts and coconut oil), Hong Kong (sharks' fins and trépang), India (cocos de mer), Mauritius and New Zealand (guano), Singapore (cocos de mer), South Africa (coconuts), and Zanzibar (soap).

Mauritius alone represents Rs. 95,996 out of the small total, out of which the export of 2,870 tons of guano accounts for

Rs. 86,100. New Zealand bought 1,861 tons of guano, declared at Rs. 55,830. The other items are trifling.

The great bulk of the exports went to foreign countries. Of these, France comes first with Rs. 712,458, mainly coprah (tons 1,897, valued at Rs. 567,918) and vanilla (tons 4·75, Rs. 96,666).

French possessions import goods to the value of Rs. 52,027, including coconut oil and soap and re-exports.

Belgium is nominally second, receiving guano to the quantity of 10,148 tons, declared at Rs. 304,440. Although the ports of destination are in Belgian territory, it is probable that most of the guano is distributed to other countries by the waterways of the interior.

Germany ranks third with a total of Rs. 300,761, of which more than half (Rs. 169,880) consists of coprah (tons 580). Guano accounts for Rs. 63,270 (tons 2,109), cinnamon bark Rs. 54,442 (tons 754), and vanilla Rs. 8,726.

German East Africa imports 31 tons of soap valued at Rs. 11.320.

Holland receives produce declared at Rs. 64,976, viz., guano (tons 1,200), mangrove bark (tons 200, worth Rs. 12,000), turtle bones (tons 150), and cinnamon bark (tons 152).

Small consignments went to Egypt (cinnamon bark and fresh fruits), Switzerland (cloves), and Austria (cinnamon bark).

Details of Exports.

16. The produce of the Colony exported in 1911 was:—

	Valued at Rs.
1. Copra (2,590 tons)	771,694
2. Guano (21,909 tons)	657,149
3. Vanilla (11 tons)	223,198
4. Cinnamon bark (963 tons) ...	68,361
5. Tortoise shell (1 ton)	41,596
6. Re-exports	28,634
7. Soap (63½ tons)	23,000
8. Coconut oil (371 hectolitres) ...	16,726
9. Mangrove bark (200 tons)... ...	12,000

Other items valued at between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 10,000 in order of value are:—coconuts, colonial spirit (rum), cloves, turtle bones, wood, cocos-de-mer, essential oils, salt fish, calipee, cacao.

Items valued at between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 are:—fresh fruits, turtle oil, hides, vacoa mats, rubber, shark fins and trépang, vetivert root, salted turtle, pepper, and citrate of lime.

General Remarks on Exports.

Coprah.—The quantity exported was slightly less than in 1910. The seasons in both years were unfavourable to large yields. The output for 1912 will be considerably higher and should touch 3,000 tons. By higher cultivation and extension of area this product should ultimately reach 6,000 tons.

The prices throughout 1911 were satisfactory to the growers. The markets are chiefly Marseilles and Hamburg, where small consignments are more easily disposed of than in London.

Guano.—The output in 1910 was tons 23,093; that for 1911 is 21,910 tons: the output for 1912 and 1913 will probably be higher. After 1913 there will be a gradual diminution. At the present rate of exploitation, the supplies would last, probably, for ten years more. The product is a rich phosphatic guano with small traces of nitrates. The prices obtained are higher than those of recent years. The output is widely distributed between Belgium, the United Kingdom, Mauritius, Germany, New Zealand, Holland, and Egypt.

Vanilla yielded almost the smallest crop on record, viz., kilos. 11,008, worth Rs. 223,200. The plants were healthy but the flowering season was utterly spoilt by unseasonable rainfall. The last good crop was in 1907, when the harvest of beans yielded a million rupees.

The crop for 1912 will be as low as that of 1911; but if nothing untoward occurs during August and September of this year, there should be a large crop in 1913.

The prices have been maintained at a high level for several years and there is no longer much dread of the artificial product, vanillin, ousting the genuine article in popular favour.

The markets for vanilla are London and Paris in about equal proportions.

Cinnamon bark.—The quantity exported was 964 tons, of which 754 tons were consigned to Hamburg and 152 tons to Holland. Cinnamon trees were introduced among other species from the Dutch Indies by order of Monsieur Poivre, Intendant of the French Colonies beyond the Cape of Good Hope, about 1775, and cultivated in the Royal Gardens on Mahé. The cultivation was abandoned shortly afterwards, but the trees spread through the forests and were neglected until 1908. The bark is now roughly harvested and dried for export, realising locally about one penny per lb. Attempts are now being made to prepare quills, and probably preference will be given in future by shippers to the bark peeled off young shoots. But there is little likelihood of the prepared quills ever competing on equal terms with the finished article as exported from Ceylon. Analysis shows that the bark is identical in all essentials with the cultivated plant of Ceylon.

Tortoise Shell.—The quantity exported was over a ton, valued at Rs. 41,597, the prices ruling high throughout the year. The markets are London and Paris. The number of turtle captured each year varies according to conditions which have not yet been defined, but the average quantity of shell obtained shows no diminution. Some most interesting experiments are being made in the rearing of young turtles from the egg in enclosed areas. The Government has advanced on easy terms the capital required by the lessee of one of the Crown Islands, and there seems at present a likelihood that the venture may prove successful. The "carets" grow more rapidly in confinement than in the open sea, and the weight of shell is proportionately greater, but many difficulties have yet to be surmounted before the experiments can

be pronounced to be successful. In view of the falling off in the supply of shell from other seas, it may reasonably be assumed that a regular supply from culture parks should prove a very lucrative industry.

Re-exports are due to Mahé having been selected as the head-quarters of the Mahé Syndicate, Limited, which is concerned in the exploitation of guano and which has established branches on islands in the Mozambique Channel belonging to the French Government in Madagascar. The labourers in these islands are enlisted from Seychelles and their supplies are forwarded from Mahé.

Soap was exported to the amount of 64 tons, divided between German East Africa, Madagascar, and Zanzibar. The trade has been much reduced—the output of 1910 was 138 tons—through the enhanced cost of coconut oil and by the competition of new factories in Zanzibar.

Coconut Oil was once a most important export, the export having once (in 1896) exceeded 15,000 hectolitres. Its place has been taken by coprah, which is the form in which the product is most desired on the Continent. The machinery in local use for expressing the oil is nearly all of a primitive character.

The total declared value of products of the coconut palm for 1911 was Rs. 821,835, considerably less than the total of 1910, which was Rs. 946,000, but the value has steadily risen since 1901, when the aggregate was only Rs. 205,321. The value for 1912 should exceed one million rupees.

Mangrove Bark was exported to Holland in 1911 to the volume of 200 tons at a declared value of Rs. 12,000. The quantity of bark—rhizofera and gymnorhiza and other varieties—available for harvesting is very large and the quality excellent, exceeding 40 per cent. of tannin, but its exploitation on a commercial scale presents many difficulties.

Of the minor products, the preparation of *essential oils* makes steady progress; of the 844 litres exported in 1911, the greater part was composed of essences prepared from the leaves of the clove tree; but the essential oil from cinnamon leaves will probably be the largest in 1912. The essence from lemon grass is also of growing importance. Much ylang ylang has been planted, but no essence has yet been exported. The market is chiefly in Germany.

There should be a large export in *dried fish*, but this business has not yet been taken up on a commercial scale.

Imports.

18. The following statement shows the distribution of imports according to countries of origin:—

		Rs.	Rs.
From the United Kingdom	...	467,407	
From the British Possessions	...	643,650	
			1,111,057
From Foreign Countries ...	...		240,774
			1,351,831

The British Possessions are:—

	Rs.
India	375,450
Mauritius	223,818
Aden	29,262
Zanzibar	6,090
Others	9,030
	643,650

The Foreign Countries are:—

	Rs.
France	216,824
Germany	9,943
French Possessions	11,721
Holland	1,252
Switzerland	354
Six others	680
	240,774

The following are the items exceeding Rs. 10,000 in value:—

United Kingdom.—Cotton goods (Rs. 64,440), iron goods (Rs. 54,315), haberdashery (Rs. 48,522), coal (Rs. 37,470), machinery (Rs. 26,266), articles de mode (Rs. 22,777), provisions (Rs. 19,114), soap (Rs. 13,649), lamps, hardware, and cutlery (Rs. 14,478).

India.—Rice (Rs. 245,196), cotton goods (Rs. 48,820), flour (Rs. 27,416), dholl (Rs. 10,175).

Mauritius.—Specie (Rs. 150,000), sugar (Rs. 48,590), rum (Rs. 12,060).

Aden.—Coffee (Rs. 27,840).

France.—Wines and spirits (Rs. 76,202), haberdashery (Rs. 38,463), cotton goods (Rs. 18,510), electric-lighting plant (Rs. 17,091).

Main Heads of Imports.—Taking a general classification, the main heads are:—

	Rs.
Foodstuffs	454,453
Clothing	276,834
Manufactured articles ...	144,945
Wines, spirits, and beer ...	107,193
Machinery	28,015
Raw materials	28,973

19. Nearly all articles of food and all articles of clothing are imported. All spirituous drinks are imported, except the favourite beverage of the working classes, "bacca," which is the juice of the sugar cane; this drink when fresh is sweet and free from alcohol; after a few hours fermentation is set up, ultimately reaching 4 or 5 degrees of alcohol; after three or four days it turns into vinegar. There are no restrictions on its preparation, but its possession is illegal after it has reached a strength of 3 degrees of alcohol.

It is worthy of note that, whereas 75 per cent. of the *exports* are consigned to foreign countries, nearly 82 per cent. of the imports come from the United Kingdom or British Possessions, and of the remaining 18 per cent. of the imports, practically the whole comes from France or French Possessions.

Manufactures, Fisheries, and Agriculture.

Manufactures.

20. There is little to add to the reports of previous years. The engineering works, owned by Messrs. Pare, Newsam & Pare, are the only works of note. This firm has been successful in carrying through important repairs to disabled steamers, and has made a speciality of shipbuilding and the installation of motor engines.

All other machinery is limited to the requirements of local estates, for the preparation of coprah, coconut oil, soap, vanilla, and essential oils. A distillery for rum has proved a failure.

Fisheries.

21. From the subjoined table it will be seen that, apart from the tortoise shell, an industry which stands apart, no progress has been made in the commercial development of the industries connected with the sea. There is little reason why the Maldive Islands should export half a million rupees' worth of dried fish and the Seychelles Island nothing. All the Seychellois are expert sailors and fishermen, but they are content to catch just sufficient fish for their own needs.

The supplies for the Victoria Market in 1911 included 338 tons of cleaned fish and 400 turtles. The total consumption in the Colony is probably about ten times as much. But the total weight of dried fish exported was only 8 tons.

The following table gives the exports in 1911 of the various produce of the sea:—

	Rs.
Tortoise shell (1 ton)	41,596
Turtle bones (150 tons)	7,500
Salt fish (8 tons)	2,369
Calipee (2 tons)	1,892
Turtle oil (1½ tons)	791
Shark fins (½ ton)	631
Salted turtle (5 casks)	463
Trépang (⅘ ton)	318
Shark oil	68

Agriculture.

22. The standard of cultivation is being steadily raised, special attention being paid by all planters to the scientific advice and guidance of the Curator of the Botanic Station. The progress is mainly evidenced in the improved management of coconut properties.

The planting of Para rubber advances steadily; 62,000 seedlings have been planted out in 1911 from the seeds of rubber trees

growing in Seychelles. Rubber appears as an export for the first time in 1911, viz., kilos. 132, which realised the full prices of good plantation rubber. Some 25,000 trees will have reached a tapable size in 1912.

Vanilla is now being treated with special care as a garden plant. Hopes are entertained that a treatment with lime may strengthen and develop this orchid. Its effect on the growth of the plant has been astonishing, but it remains to be seen whether the treatment will result in an increased yield of beans.

The periods of drought from 1904 to 1911 favoured the development of scale insects, and various types of plants have suffered from a green scale (*lecanium viride*), a black scale (*lecanium nigrum*), a star scale (*vinsonia stellifera*), and a mealy bug (*Icerya Seychellarum*). The Curator believes that with the advent of a wet season in 1912 the natural fungoid parasites will keep the scale insects under control.

23. The Curator of the Botanic Station was sent during the year on a tour in Ceylon and India to acquire knowledge for the benefit of the planters. The outlay incurred was Rs. 6,200, of which one-half was invested in the purchase of plants and seeds, which have been sold by retail to planters at cost price.

Crown Lands.

24. There have been no grants of Crown Lands during the year. Most of the Crown Lands have been leased and are in private hands. The revenue derived from this source in 1911 was Rs. 65,824, or nearly 12 per cent. of the total revenue, and much more than the proceeds derived from direct taxation (Rs. 48,167).

The Government has retained, in addition to the Botanic Station in Victoria and the experimental garden at Capucin, the whole of the New Forest, which consists of 1,200 acres, acquired by purchase in 1909. This area includes practically all of the central mountain range above 1,500 feet. Apart from its reservation to secure the maintenance, unpolluted, of the principal sources of water supply of Mahé, extensive plantations are being maintained and extended yearly of timber trees and of trees of commercial value which are to be acclimatised.

Shipping.

Shipping Statistics.

25. The following table gives the total tonnage entered and cleared by nationalities:—

British	138,856
German	140,316
French	112,192
Dutch	13,000
Norwegian	8,876

During the year the harbour was visited by four men-of-war, one of which was British.

26. The inter-island steamer " Alexandra " has made 43 trips among the islands, and has been employed for towing purposes.

She was laid up during the south-east trades and was extensively renewed.

The cutter "Wave" was employed on the services of the lighthouses, and made 30 trips. She has this year been fitted with a Thorneycroft motor of 15 horse-power, which adds immensely to her usefulness.

The motor-boat "Pearl" is used for harbour work and has made 347 trips during the year. This is a most satisfactory boat.

The Mahé Syndicate has purchased a small steamer, the "Cigale," of 136 tons, for the service of their islands and the transport of labourers. The type of steamer now selected meets local requirements; it would be to the advantage of the owners and lessees of outlying islands to follow this example and substitute steam-power for the present service by sailing vessels.

There is, besides, a fleet of whaleboats at Mahé, "Praslin" and "La Digue" for administrative work for the police and for the quarantine services.

27. The lighthouses are in good order.

(1) The powerful new revolving light installed at Denis Island has given complete satisfaction: The flash is visible at a distance of 25 miles. This lighthouse was completed in 1910 at a cost of Rs. 65,000.

(2) A new lighthouse was erected on Mamelles Island, midway between Mahé and Praslin, during the course of the year, and a fixed white light—previously used at Denis Island—was first shown on the 15th December. It is placed on a structure, 35 feet high, at a total height of 165 feet above the sea level.

The light is visible at 15 miles and is much appreciated by masters of vessels making the harbour of Victoria, and by the coxswains of craft in the inter-island trade.

(3) The harbour light, Victoria, established in 1907, shows a fixed red light visible at 10 miles.

28. It is contemplated to establish a fourth light on Capucin Point, at the extreme South of Mahé, as a guide to masters making the port from the south. This light has been repeatedly asked for by captains of the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes, who avoid making Capucin Point at night, with the result that calls by the mail steamers homeward bound are made at night, to the general inconvenience. This light will complete the lighting of the principal group of the Seychelles Islands.

III.—LEGISLATION.

29. Twelve Ordinances were passed during the year. The principal of these were:—

No. 1, to regulate the importation and storage of dangerous goods.

No. 3, to amend the law relating to moitié system contracts.

No. 8, to regulate criminal procedure.

No. 9, to provide for the making of summary orders for the maintenance of wives and children.

No. 11, to amend the law relating to the appointment of the official assignee in bankruptcy.

IV.—EDUCATION.

30. The number of children attending the schools of the Colony is 2,870 as compared with 2,722 in 1910. The average attendance is 2,147. The percentage of passes for grants-in-aid is 71.

31. Nineteen boys passed the Cambridge Local examinations, two of them with honours, a most satisfactory result considering how few boys attend school for secondary education. Two boys passed the matriculation examination of the University of London.

32. A system has been introduced for the selection of promising girls from the preliminary schools in the country villages for a course of two years' study at the convent in Victoria, during which the pupils learn English and French and good manners. The Government provides the bourses, which are fixed at Rs. 18 per month. There are now 11 scholars being trained. Similarly, there are 12 boys maintained at the Victoria School at bourses ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 a month.

33. There are three Government scholars (Laureates) being trained in the United Kingdom on scholarships which have been raised to the annual value of £80 a year for five years. From 1912 the new scholarships awarded will be of the value of £120 for five years.

34. The total vote voted for Education in 1911 was Rs. 44,781, or about 8 per cent. of the normal budget. The vote has been raised for 1912 to Rs. 46,489.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Victoria Hospital.

35. There were 598 in-patients treated in the hospital in 1911, exceeding by 118 the number in 1910, which was the highest recorded. There were 26 deaths, giving a percentage of 4·34. The accommodation needs enlargement.

Dispensaries.

36. There are six public dispensaries, at which 2,456 persons received treatment, of whom 1,693 attended at the Victoria dispensary.

Birth and Death Rate.

37. The death rate was 15·79 per thousand, somewhat below the average. The total number of deaths was 365; of these 79 were children under one year.

The birth rate was 31·94 per thousand, slightly higher than in the previous year.

Principal Diseases.

38. There was nothing noteworthy in the diseases prevalent during the year: there were no epidemic diseases. The number of cases of beri-beri occurring among the labourers in the outlying islands has very greatly diminished; this was undoubtedly directly due to their being supplied with whole rice.

The supply of vaccine which comes monthly from Europe gave excellent results. There were no failures; there were 555 vaccinations; of these 551 were successful the first time and the remaining four the second time.

Leper Asylum.

39. Nine cases of leprosy were under treatment at the leper camp. The Nastin treatment was continued and the results were encouraging, the patients all declaring that they felt better for it, and several old chronic ulcers which had resisted all treatment for years healed up under it.

Pauper Camp.

40. There were 29 paupers maintained at the public cost at the end of the year. The camp is kept in excellent order.

Lunatic Asylum.

41. During the year there were four male and three female patients admitted, and at the end of the year there remained 11 male and 11 female patients in the asylum. There were four deaths on the male side during the year. Two male and one female patients were discharged recovered.

Maternity Home.

42. This new institution was opened in September, difficulties which could not have been foreseen having caused the delay. The home is well equipped and has two private rooms for better class patients and a general ward containing seven beds. The institution fills a greatly felt want, and the highly important work of training midwives has been begun. The home already shows signs of being very popular among the poor classes of the population who formerly could get so very little attention in their own homes, and the paying wards are constantly occupied. Seventy-six cases have been treated in the home during the first six months of 1911. It will be necessary to enlarge the premises.

Savings Bank.

43. Rs. 76,823.75 remained to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1911, being Rs. 13,738.48 less than the balance at the close of 1910. The total number of depositors at the end of the year was 357, being 23 more than at the close of the preceding year. Rs. 1,516.10 was paid for interest to depositors, and Rs. 2,844.41 received as interest from the funds invested on behalf of the Savings Bank.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

44. The Supreme Court dealt with 285 cases on the criminal side during the year. There was one trial for murder, the first for very many years; the accused, who had killed two women, was acquitted of murder but convicted of homicide not amounting to murder; he was sentenced to long terms of imprisonment.

45. The large increase in the number of cases before the Police Magistrate in 1910 showed little diminution. Most of the cases in the Police Court and before the Justices of the Peace and the Visiting Magistrate to the outlying islands were for drunkenness and disturbance. The total number of cases resulting in convictions was 1,664.

46. The total value of property lost was reported at Rs. 1,964; property to the value of Rs. 954 was recovered.

The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 12,429 as against Rs. 15,162 in 1910.

The expenditure on the Legal Department was Rs. 35,612.

Police Force.

47. The Police Force consists of an inspector and 74 non-commissioned officers and men. There is a central police station in Victoria and 11 out-stations. One new station was added in 1911, and the number of the police has been augmented. The police have also the charge of political prisoners from the Gold Coast and Uganda. The cost of maintenance of the force was Rs. 41,958.

Prison.

48. The number of persons committed to prison during 1911 was 574, namely, 426 males and 148 females. The daily average of prisoners was 51, of whom six were women. Out of the total number of persons committed, no less than 426 were imprisoned in default of payment of fines.

Ten persons, all males, were admitted to the prison infirmary. There were no deaths. There was no case of corporal punishment. Men sentenced to terms of six months or over are taught trades, including printing, book-binding, carpentry, mason's and tinsmith's work, and the making of mattresses, mats, and baskets.

The total cost of the prison was Rs. 11,690.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

49. A census was taken on the 2nd April, 1911. The total population was then 22,691, viz., 11,557 males and 11,134 females. The increase in ten years had been 3,454 or 18 per cent. The population is 148 to the square mile.

The number of persons not born in Seychelles was 2,159. Of these 419 came from Mauritius and 97 from the French Islands in the Indian Ocean; 97 were born in Africa. From Asia the total is 520, viz., 420 from British India, and 83 from China, and 17 from elsewhere. There are now no labourers under indenture.

Of those of European birth, 49 were born in the United Kingdom or Ireland, 51 in France, and 29 elsewhere. Sixteen persons were born in America.

The distribution according to religious beliefs shows that 19,460 (85 per cent.) are Roman Catholics and 2,720 (13 per cent.) members of the Church of England. The remaining 2 per cent. are composed of 332 Hindoos, 75 Mohammedans, 54 Confucians, and a few members of other creeds.

During 1911 the number of births was 738, of which 34 per cent. were illegitimate. The birth rate was 31·94 per mille. The still-births were 60. Infant mortality under one year represented 107 per cent. and those under five years 171 per cent. of the total births.

The deaths numbered 365, showing a death rate of 15·79 per mille.

Climate.

50. The rainfall was again short, the quantity registered at the port being only 77·21 inches. The rainfall has been low for six years, but during the 20 years before 1906 the yearly average was just 100 inches. The heaviest downfall was 5·85 inches on the 10th October, at the very period when it is most prejudicial to the floraison of the vanilla.

The mean temperature was 79·35°. The widest range was from 72° (November 24) to 96·3° (April 28).

The S.E. trades commenced early (April 14) and ended late (October 23). On only three occasions during the year did the wind reach a velocity of 20 miles an hour for 24 hours (in July and August).

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

56. The occasion of Their Majesties' Coronation was celebrated with the greatest enthusiasm.

All classes of the community joined heartily in the rejoicings; the illuminations and firework display were on an unprecedented scale; and the fêtes for the children and the feasting of the poor were carefully planned and zealously carried out.

The humble, loyal, and dutiful address of His Majesty's subjects was a beautiful work of art.

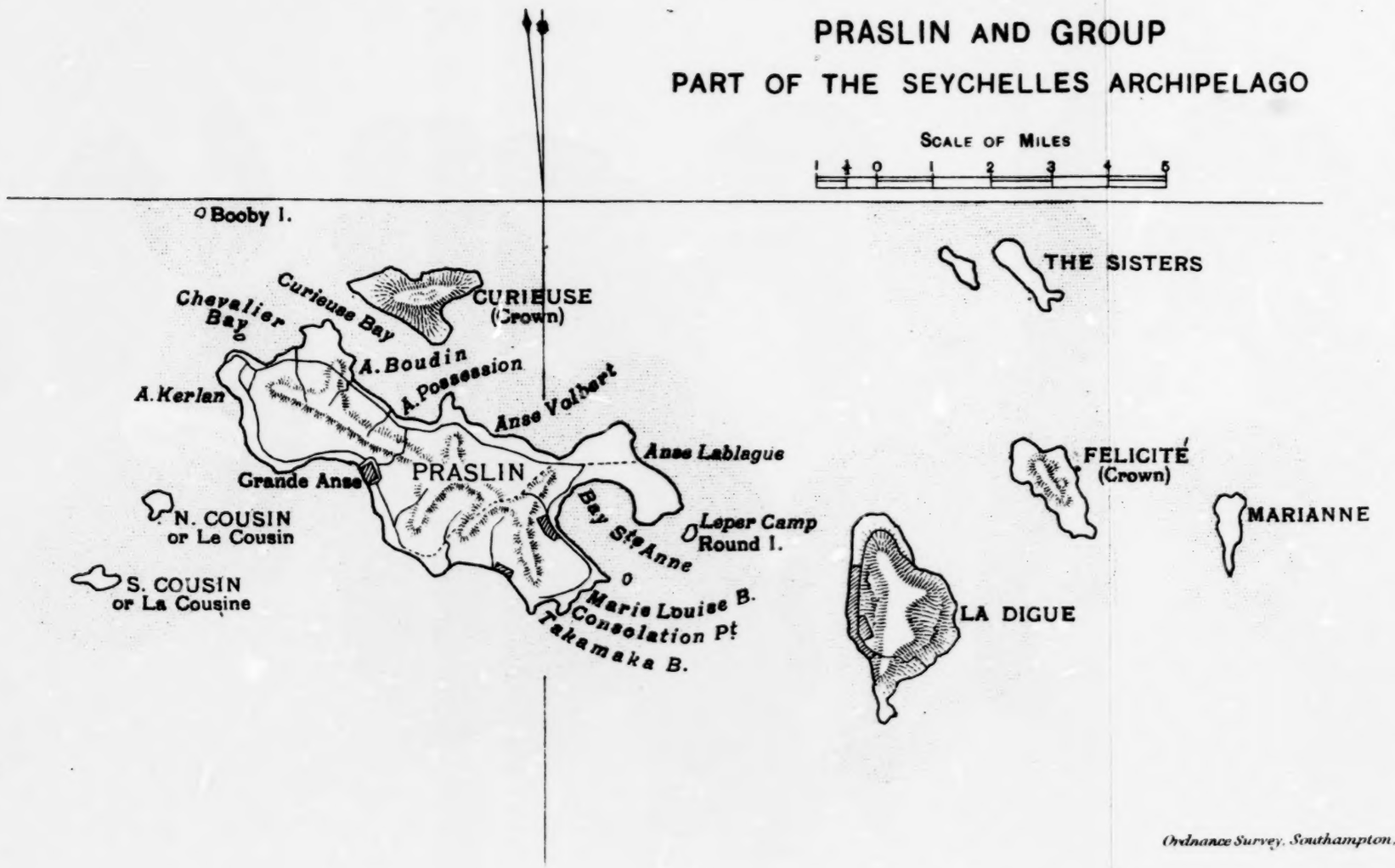
The wording of the address and its illustrations were designed to record the social condition of the Colony after one hundred years of British rule, and a special list is inserted of the descendents of the original Colonists or of families settled in Seychelles during French rule (prior to 1811). A copy of the address is retained in the archives, and a reduced facsimile—without colours—has been presented to each of the signatories to the address.

W. E. Davidson,
Governor.

28th June, 1912.

PRASLIN AND GROUP

PART OF THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIPELAGO



Ordnance Survey, Southampton 1912.

Ordnance Survey, Soutl

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
697	Swaziland	1910–1911
698	Barbados	1910–1911
699	Trinidad and Tobago	"
700	Mauritius	"
701	Grenada	1910
702	British Guiana	"
703	Jamaica	1910–1911
704	Northern Nigeria	"
705	East Africa Protectorate	"
706	British Honduras	"
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1910
708	Uganda	"
709	Straits Settlements	1910–1911
710	Basutoland	1910
711	Leeward Islands	1910–1911
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	"
714	St. Helena	1910
715	Weihaiwei	1911
716	Ceylon	"
717	Gibraltar	1910–1911
718	Gambia	1911
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 760.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 721.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1913.

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MAP.

No. 760.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 721.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
27th June, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1912, together with a report thereon.

I have, &c.,
C. R. M. O'BRIEN,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(31201—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125. 8/13. D & S. A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1912.

FINANCE.

1. The revenue of the Colony in 1912 amounted to Rs. 475,304, being Rs. 70,052 less than the revenue collected in 1911.

2. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 580,605, being Rs. 68,337 more than the expenditure in 1911.

3. Expenditure exceeded revenue by Rs. 105,301. The deficit on the year's transactions was met out of the surplus funds.

4. Details of revenue 1911-12:

Heads of Receipts.	1911.	1912.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Customs	252,833	224,261
2. Harbour dues	10,317	10,199
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue	71,109	65,158
4. Taxes	48,617	50,224
5. Fees of Court or Office ...	58,306	26,967
6. Post Office	17,471	19,430
7. Crown Lands	65,823	60,883
8. Interest	12,970	13,136
9. Miscellaneous	7,905	5,042
Total ...	Rs. 545,356	Rs. 475,304

5. The principal decreases and increases, as compared with 1911, are accounted for as follows:—Customs, decrease of Rs. 28,572, due to a falling off in imports; Harbour Dues, decrease due to the number of ships piloted in 1912 being less than in 1911; Licences, &c., no distiller's licence was issued and no excise duty on rum was received as the distillery at Pointe La Rue was closed during the year; Taxes, slight increase due to more "prises d'eau" having been paid for in 1912, and to certain arrears of 1911 having been adjusted during the year; Fees of Court or Office, decrease due to (1) fewer deeds registered, (2) fewer civil cases, (3) amount of fees estimated to be derived from bankruptcy accounts not having been collected in 1912; Post Office, a slight advance due to increased sales through issue of certain values of King George stamps; Crown Lands, decrease due to less quantity of guano removed from the islands in 1912; Miscellaneous, decrease due to the fact that remittances by merchants and others are now made through the Bank of Mauritius, instead of through the Government as before.

6. Details of expenditure:—

The following table gives the details of the expenditure in 1911 and 1912:—

Heads of Services.	1911,	1912.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt ...	14,816	14,816
2. Pensions	13,557	14,157
3. Governor and Legislature	26,175	25,156
4. Treasury, Customs and Revenue Department	23,818	21,036
5. Audit Department	6,167	5,863
6. Port and Marine Department	20,124	26,844
7. Legal Department	35,611	45,275
8. Police Department	38,909	42,391
9. Prison Department	11,715	12,681
10. Medical Department and Quarantine ...	47,393	52,503
11. Ecclesiastical Department	9,750	9,375
12. Education Department	37,054	43,530
13. Printing Department	3,776	4,927
14. Post Office Department	17,333	17,530
15. Transport	4,928	3,545
16. Agriculture and Crown Lands	19,278	23,127
17. Local Board, Central District	23,978	23,687
18. Local Board, South Mahé	5,226	5,492
19. Local Board, Praslin	2,854	2,944
20. Local Board, La Digue	1,653	2,161
21. Interest and Exchange	3,424	3,071
22. Miscellaneous	17,297	15,422
23. Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies ...	57,750	54,250
24. Public Works Department	14,689	13,800
25. Public Works Recurrent	18,980	20,399
26. Public Works Extraordinary	36,003	76,610
Total ...	Rs. 512,267	Rs. 580,605

7. The principal increases, compared with 1911, are:—Port and Marine, due to cost of conversion of cutter "Wave" into a motor boat; increased supply of paraffin and motor oil; extensive repairs to "Alexandra" during the year; and cost of establishment of new light station at Capucin Point, South Mahé. Legal Department, due to extra expenditure incurred in filling appointments of Chief Justice and Crown Prosecutor whilst the holders of these offices were on leave of absence. Police, increase in number of non-commissioned officers; cost of a new signal gun; and special expenditure relating to the recovery of the missing lugger "La Haine" from Dar-es-Salaam. Prisons, increase in number of prisoners. Medical, increase in number of patients in Hospital and Maternity Home; increased quarantine expenses, due to more frequent calls of the British India and D.O.A.L. steamers from infected ports. Education, examination fees of the St. Louis College were paid by the Government; excess under result grants affiliated schools, and increased cost of English scholarships. Printing, more printing undertaken during the year. Agriculture, due to part cost of Curator's mission to Ceylon and India in 1911, charged in 1912.

Public Works Recurrent, due to repairs necessitated by floods at the beginning of the year and to amounts provided under certain subheads having proved insufficient. Public Works Extraordinary, due to cost of purchase of:—

	Rs.
(*a*) Land for extension of Mont Fleuri Cemetery ...	10,112
(*b*) Building for extension of Maternity Home ...	4,562
(*c*) Laying out the ground of new Government House	2,498
(*d*) New furniture for new Government House ...	657
(*e*) Motor engine for cutter "Wave"	3,750
(*f*) The building of the new Government House ...	14,595

8. The principal decreases are as under:—

Governor's Office: savings on salary consequent on the transfer of holder of office of Clerk to Governor. Treasury and Customs: re-arrangement of Customs Department. Miscellaneous: in 1911 the sum of Rs. 6,332 was spent on Coronation festivities. Telegraph and steamer subsidies: mail subsidy for December 1912 was paid in January 1913.

9. The following table shows the Revenue and Expenditure for the past five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1908	473,836	465,753
1909	511,316	519,158
1910	543,650	491,589
1911	545,356	512,167
1912	475,304	580,605

10. There was a serious falling off in revenue in 1912 compared with the last three years, and the expenditure in 1912 was the highest for the past five years, due to the causes already shown.

11. The Colony has suffered during the year from the effects of the bankruptcies in 1911; the credit of the local merchants with Europe was restricted, and consequently resulted in smaller importations and diminution in trade. This, added to the continued falling off in the vanilla crop, accounted for the great shortage of money in circulation during the past year.

12. The heavy expenditure in 1912 is accounted for by the number of important works undertaken under Public Works Extraordinary. The new Government House in course of construction is expected to be ready for occupation in September 1913, and is estimated to cost between Rs. 70,000 and Rs. 75,000.

13. No additional taxation was introduced during the year.

Assets and Liabilities.

14. The balance in favour of assets on the 31st December amounted to Rs. 283,023, of which sum Rs. 99,033 was invested through the Crown Agents in Government securities. Rs. 149,100 was invested locally under Ordinance No. 4 of 1904, and Rs. 10,000 was invested in a loan on the Turtle pond at Curieuse Island.

Public Debt.

15. The Public Debt consists of a loan of £20,000, negotiated in 1899 and repayable in thirty annual instalments of capital and interest of Rs. 14,816.25, of which twelve have been paid, leaving a balance of Rs. 208,124 remaining due at the close of the year.

Local Boards.

16. There are four Local Boards in the Colony, viz.:—
Local Board, Central District and surroundings.
Local Board, South Mahé.
Local Board, Praslin Island.
Local Board, La Digue Island.

17. The revenue and expenditure of these boards are incorporated in the return of the revenue and expenditure of the Colony. A sum is yearly allotted to each Board for its expenditure, and all rates collected are credited to General Revenue.

TRADE.

Imports.

18. The total gross value of imports for the year amounted to Rs. 1,176,511, being Rs. 175,320 less in value than the imports for 1911.

19. The following statement shows the distribution of imports according to countries of origin:—

	Rs.
From United Kingdom	348,052
,, British possessions	637,669
,, Foreign countries	190,790
Total ...	Rs. 1,176,511

The British possessions shown above comprise:—

	Rs.
Aden	39,547
India	459,095
Mauritius	119,586
Zanzibar	12,884
Various	6,555
Total ...	Rs. 637,669

20. Imports from foreign countries are as follows:—

	Rs.
France	170,145
Madagascar	10,338
Germany	7,096
Holland	1,117
Other Countries	2,092
Total ...	Rs. 190,790

21. Items exceeding Rs. 9,000 in value are shown below:—

	Rs.
Articles of clothing (United Kingdom)	119,272
,, (India)	55,363
,, (France)	53,453
Coals (United Kingdom)	49,878
Foodstuffs (United Kingdom)	40,210
,, (Aden)	38,656
,, (India)	369,355
,, (Mauritius)	62,085
,, (France)	17,035
Manufactured goods (United Kingdom) ...	100,024
,, (India)	27,423
,, (France)	17,590
Raw materials (United Kingdom)	12,128
,, (Zanzibar)	11,776
Spirits and liquor (United Kingdom)	11,107
,, (Mauritius)	9,725
,, (France)	71,650
Coin and bullion (Mauritius)	37,000

The greatest proportion of the imports is obtained from India, closely followed by the United Kingdom, France and Mauritius being next in order of importance.

22. The following return shows the quantity of spirits imported, and the revenue derived, during the past five years:—

IMPORTS OF SPIRITS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS.

—	1908.			1909.			1910.			1911.			1912.		
	Quantity.	Rate of duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Rate of duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Rate of duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Rate of duty.	Revenue collected.	Quantity.	Rate of duty.	Revenue collected.
	Litres.	Per litre.	Rs.	Litres.	Per litre.	Rs.	Litres.	Per litre.	Rs.	Litres.	Per litre.	Rs.	Litres.	Per litre.	Rs.
Gin	806	R. 1·50	1,214	578	R. 1·50	865	791	R. 1·50	1,187	1,394	R. 1·50	2,070	996	R. 1·50	1,495
Rum...	58,125	„	87,189	51,971	„	77,984	53,030	„	79,544	52,900	„	79,351	46,139	„	69,211
Whisky	3,656	„	5,469	4,053	„	6,079	3,240	„	4,860	6,258	„	9,402	4,398	„	6,598
Brandy	5,278	„	7,919	5,613	„	8,420	6,533	„	9,801	7,719	„	11,559	5,591	„	8,386
Sweetened spirits ...	776	„	1,146	528	„	792	693	„	1,040	50	„	75	545	„	818
	doz. bottles			doz. bottles			doz. bottles			doz. bottles			doz. bottles		
Wines	13,244	(various)	15,646	14,085	(various)	16,544	14,833	(various)	17,637	12,490	(various)	14,338	11,161	(various)	13,150
	litres	per litre		litres	per litre		litres	per litre		litres	per litre		litres	per litre	
Absinthe	1,798	R. 1·50	2,697	1,866	R. 1·50	2,799	2,003	R. 1·50	3,005	1,837	R. 1·50	2,756	1,543	R. 1·50	2,314
	—	—	121,280	—	—	113,486	—	—	117,077	—	—	119,553	—	—	101,976

Exports.

23. The value of exports in 1912 is as follows:—

	Rs.
To the United Kingdom	168,075
,, British possessions	58,362
,, Foreign countries	1,530,610
Total ...	Rs. 1,757,048

showing a decrease in value of Rs.146,752 compared with 1911.

The above totals include re-exported articles to the value of Rs. 13,311.

24. The principal British possessions to which produce was exported are:—British East Africa, Aden, Hong Kong, India, Mauritius, and Zanzibar, of which Mauritius alone represents Rs. 48,056.

25. The largest proportion of our exports is sent to foreign countries, France leading with Rs. 781,269, followed by Germany Rs. 355,844.

26. The principal exports, compared with 1911, are:—

	1911. Rs.	1912. Rs.
Calipee	1,892	28,547
Cinnamon bark	68,361	83,385
Coco de mer	3,788	2,900
Coconuts	9,504	8,914
Coprah	771,694	801,196
Essences (clove, cinnamon, lemon grass)	3,080	7,700
Fish (salted)	2,369	6,949
Guano	657,149	465,414
Coconut oil	16,726	32,331
Whale oil	nil	48,000
Tortoise shell	41,596	34,025
Soap	23,809	43,800
Vanilla	223,198	151,331

27. The subjoined table gives the total value of imports and exports for the last five years:—

Year.	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.
1908	1,150,741	1,657,175
1909	1,019,876	1,569,950
1910	1,476,933	2,242,729
1911	1,351,833	1,903,800
1912	1,176,511	1,757,048

28. The exports of our staple articles, coprah and vanilla, during the last five years are:—

Year.	Coprah.	Vanilla.
	Rs.	Rs.
1908	392,556	264,485
1909	533,714	200,345
1910	862,857	450,239
1911	771,694	223,198
1912	801,196	151,331

29. The gratifying feature of the above return is the large increase in value, during the last three years, of the coprah exported. The vanilla crop last year was very small: hence the poor export.

30. It is interesting to note that rubber to the value of Rs. 2,265 was exported to the United Kingdom in 1912.

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND AGRICULTURE.

Manufactures.

31. There is only one engineering firm in the Colony, viz., that of Messrs. Pare, Newsam & Pare. This firm is prepared to carry out repairs to disabled steamers, to build smaller craft, and to instal motor engines. The only machinery for which there is any demand in the Colony is for the preparation of coprah, coconut oil, soap, vanilla, and essential oils. There is at present no distillery.

Fisheries.

32. The following table gives the export in 1912 of shell and fish:—

	Rs.
Tortoise shell	34,025
Turtle bones	142
Turtle oil...	273
Whale oil...	48,000
Shark oil	50
Shark fins	615
Salt fish	6,949
Calipee	28,547
Trepang	817

33. There is a falling off of Rs. 5,832 in the export of tortoise shell and increases in the following:—salt fish, Rs. 4,080; calipee, Rs. 26,655; and whale oil, Rs. 48,000. The last item does not appear in the list for 1911.

34. Whaling is not established as an industry in these waters, which have so far been only intermittently visited by whaling vessels. There are, however, at present several enquiries, and it is possible there will be an increase. The whole question regarding the fisheries is under consideration at prsent.

Agriculture.

35. The continued improvement in the management of coconut plantations has resulted in the increase of nuts being maintained.

The crop gathered in 1912 was 24,873,124 nuts, as against 23,195,227 in 1911. The extraction of coconut oil locally has diminished and the greater amount of the product is turned into coprah. The price has risen from Rs. 20 per 1,000 in 1905 to Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 in the year under review. The crop of vanilla fell to 8 tons, the lowest on record since 1895; the declared value was Rs. 19 per kilo, a higher price than has ruled for several years. In consequence of the more plentiful rainfall of the past year vanilla planting is greatly on the increase and it is satisfactory to note that many planters are giving more close attention to the manuring and culture of the new vines. The output this year is not expected to be large in Mahé, but there is a better promise in the islands of Praslin and La Digue, and all people appear sanguine that the 1913-14 crop will be more propitious provided the weather conditions are maintained until the blossoming season in September next.

36. Rubber to the value of Rs. 2,265 was exported during the year. The number of seedlings planted during the year was 50,000, and it is estimated that there are 184,000 trees of Para rubber growing in the Colony, with an acreage of 1,082. The number of estates on which tapping of trees has been started is four and there should before long be an appreciable increase as the trees arrive at maturity. The Curator expresses himself as well satisfied with the increase of growth and girth of trees planted on suitable soil.

37. The export of cinnamon bark has increased from 963 tons in 1911 to 1,098 in 1912, the declared value being Rs. 83,385.

38. Eighteen tons of mangrove bark were exported from Aldabra in 1912; declared value Rs. 8,593.

39. The extraction of essential oils continues and reaches a total of 2,227 litres, of the declared value of Rs. 7,700.

40. Citrate of lime is made on the island of Silhouette only; 700 kilos were exported during the year, of the value of Rs. 420.

41. Various experiments with plants have been made at the Botanical Station, of which details are given in the Curator's annual report.

42. Cola trees which were introduced from Ceylon in 1903 have fruited abundantly in 1912. Three specimens which were probably introduced from Kew at a remote date were discovered in the jungle of Government House in 1908, and one of these trees produced 2,000 nuts in the year 1912.

43. Guano to the value of Rs. 465,414 was exported from the islands included in the Colony of Seychelles.

44. The frequent applications of planters and others for the advice of the Curator and the interest shown in the Agricultural Society are healthy indications of progress.

Crown Lands.

45. There have been no new grants of Crown Lands during the year. The total acreage leased amounts to approximately 56,000, and the revenue derived therefrom, including royalty on guano and sale of produce, was Rs. 60,883. The fall in revenue from this source, Rs. 4,940, is mainly accounted for owing to the full

amount of guano exported in 1912 not being brought to account until early in the current year, and the loss of a ship through wreck, which delayed the export at the end of the year.

Shipping.

46. The total tonnage of merchant vessels arriving and departing was 174,936, as compared with 206,690 in 1911. Particulars as to nationality and class of vessel will be seen from the appended comparative statement of shipping entered at Seychelles for the last five years:—

Shipping entered at Seychelles for the last five years.

—	1908.			1909.			1910.			1911.			1912.		
	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Totals.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Totals.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Totals.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Totals.	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Totals.
British ...	12	4	16	16	7	23	33	7	40	32	3	35	24	5	29
Norwegian ...	2	2	4	—	3	3	—	3	3	—	4	4	—	1	1
Russian ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
French ...	25	—	25	24	1	25	26	—	26	24	—	24	25	—	25
German ...	23	—	23	22	—	22	20	—	20	32	—	32	25	—	25
Portuguese ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
American ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Italian... ...	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1
Siamese ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Swedish ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total ...	64	7	71	64	12	76	82	11	93	89	7	96	77	7	84

47. It will be seen that during the year the number of British vessels fell from 35 to 29 and the total number of steamers of all nationalities was 12 less than in 1911 while the sailing vessels remained the same. Only one ship of war (H.M.S. "[illegible]orte") called at Mahé during the year.

48. The Government steam launch "Alexandra" has performed 46 voyages among the outlying islands of Praslin, La Digue, and Round Island, and also to South Mahé during the year. She has also been used for towing purposes and to take the Governor and officers on duty to the neighbouring islands. Owing to a breakdown of her machinery she was laid up during January and February. She was further laid by during the south-east monsoon and thoroughly overhauled and repaired. This vessel is reported to be unfitted for further towing work on account of the danger of breaking her tail shaft, and the question of the provision of a suitable vessel will shortly have to be considered.

49. The cutter "Wave," as stated in last year's report, has been fitted with a motor engine. She has made monthly visits to the Denis Island and Mamelles lighthouses, and also replaced the

"Alexandra" during the south-east monsoon for the carrying of mails and passengers to the neighbouring islands. She made 44 voyages during the year.

50. The motor boat "Pearl" is used for harbour work and for communication with the quarantine station and also by the Governor on his visits of inspection. She made 452 trips during the year.

51. A new motor boat, to be called the "Shamrock," is in the hands of Messrs. Pare, Newsam & Pare and due for delivery early in 1913. She is to be a strong sea-going boat capable of being used in rough weather and fitted with a Thornycroft engine of 15 h.-p. and also with a sail. She is mainly intended for the use of the Medical Officer and Justice of the Peace at Praslin, to enable him to visit the islands under his charge in all weathers. The present means of communication by sailing or rowing boats is unsatisfactory. It is hoped that the heavy cost of maintenance may be met in part by the conveyance of passengers and the hiring out of the vessel on occasions.

52. There are a number of whale boats at Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue used for administrative, police, and quarantine services.

53. The lighthouses are in good order. The only addition to the number of lights enumerated in the report for 1911 is the one at Capucin Point at the extreme south of the island of Mahé, which has been erected during the year. It is placed on a masonry pillar four feet high erected on the top of the glacis about 330 feet above the sea-level. It is a fixed light that can be seen from a distance of 12 miles at sea. The cost of the lamp and its erection was Rs. 849. It fulfils a very useful purpose and is highly spoken of by master mariners.

LEGISLATION.

54. Nine Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 1.—"An Ordinance to provide for the repatriation of seamen." Provision is made for the repatriation of seamen who are natives of Seychelles, on their being discharged at any port outside the Colony, at the expense of the shipping company.

No. 3.—"The disinfection of plants (Amendment) Ordinance." Empowers the agricultural authority, with the approval of the Governor, to dispose in any manner thought fit of all plants imported into Seychelles which cannot be sufficiently disinfected to ensure the destruction of all vegetable and insect pests.

No. 4.—"An Ordinance relating to the making of summary orders for the maintenance of wives and children." The court is empowered to make orders respecting judicial separation, on certain conditions, to ensure the custody of the children, and the support of such children and wife.

No. 5.—"The Cinematograph Ordinance." Regulates the holding of cinematograph exhibitions.

No. 6.—"The Medical (Amendment) Ordinance, 1912." Amends the law relating to the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery.

No. 9.—"The Assessors Ordinance, 1912." Permits assessors, on their fulfilling certain requirements, to separate during the trial for capital offences.

EDUCATION.

55. In addition to the King's College, with its preparatory branch in the Victoria School and the Government Free School, there are 24 grant-in-aid schools, of which four are managed by the Anglican Church and the remainder by the Roman Catholic Church.

The St. Louis College and St. Joseph's Convent schools each have a paying section and there is also a private school in Mahé.

56. The total number of children attending school in the Colony is 2,663, as compared with 2,870 in 1911. The average attendance is 1,099. The percentage of passes in the grant-in-aid schools is 77 per cent., being an advance of 6 per cent. on the former year.

57. Twenty-two boys and two girls passed the Cambridge local examination, four of whom obtained honours. Two boys passed the matriculation examination of the University of London.

58. There are four Government scholars (laureates) under instruction in the United Kingdom, of whom three have been granted scholarships of the annual value of £80 for five years and one of £120 for the same period. Another laureate was selected in 1912 and left for Europe early in this year. Of the above, one has recently been called to the Bar after taking the B.L. degree of London University, the second is studying medicine at Guys Hospital, and the third is studying for the B.L. degree at the Edinburgh University, the fourth is reading for the B.Sc. degree at the University of London. The last has started well in medicine at Edinburgh University.

59. Ten pupils of St. Joseph's Convent school for girls hold exhibitions entitling them to board and tuition in the school at the expense of Government under the scheme mentioned in the Blue Book Report for 1911. Similarly there are 13 boys who are exhibitioners with free tuition and a maintenance allowance at the King's College and ten who receive free tuition at the Government expense.

60. The total amount expended on education in the Colony in 1912 was Rs. 43,530.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital and Dispensaries.

Victoria Hospital.

61. The total number of in-patients treated in the hospital during the year was 533, being 45 less than in the preceding year. There were 22 deaths, giving a percentage of 4·15. Pro-

vision has been made in the Estimates of the current year to increase the accommodation by one more paying ward.

Dispensaries.

62. 3,046 persons received treatment at the six public dispensaries, of whom 2,419 attended at the Victoria Dispensary.

BIRTH AND DEATH-RATE.

63. The birth-rate was 30·88 per 1,000, a decrease of 1·06 from the previous year.

64. The death-rate was 14·76 per 1,000, being 1·03 less than in 1911. The total number of deaths was 347, of whom 118 were children under five years.

PRINCIPAL DISEASES.

65. There was no outbreak of infectious or contagious disease during the year, the health of the population being good. Beriberi, which formerly caused considerable trouble among the labourers in the outlying islands, appears to have practically disappeared.

66. Vaccination is carefully carried out. 688 persons were vaccinated, of whom 676 were successful the first time and nine on the second occasion.

LEPER ASYLUM.

67. Nine cases of leprosy were under treatment during the year and there was one death. The Nastin treatment has been continued, but such good results have not been obtained as in the previous year, with the exception of one young patient whose improvement has been marked.

PAUPER CAMP.

68. There were 25 inmates maintained at the Government expense at the close of the year. The quarters and the camp are clean and suitable and carefully supervised.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

69. 29 persons, of whom 12 were females, have been under treatment during the year. There were 4 deaths and 6 discharges leaving 19 (9 males and 10 females) on the 31st December.

MATERNITY HOME.

10. This institution has been a very great success. 156 patients have been admitted and 135 babies were born in the home during the year. The accommodation has been so severely taxed that a neighbouring house was purchased at the close of 1912 and has since been converted into quarters for the matron and nursing staff, thus permitting of more wards for patients in the main building. The institution appears to be thoroughly appreciated by people of all classes. Two pupils trained in the home have obtained certificates as midwives and are now doing good work in out-districts.

SAVINGS BANK.

71. The balance remaining to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1912, was Rs. 68,904, being Rs. 7,919 less than

at the close of the previous year. The number of accounts open at the end of the year was 390, being 43 more than in 1911. The sum of Rs. 1,343 was paid in interest to depositors. The revenue derived from the investments on behalf of the Savings Bank for the year was Rs. 2,729.

JUDICIAL.

72. The number of cases dealt with on the criminal side by the Supreme Court was 271. Two capital offences were tried during the year. In the one case, the murder of a lady, two prisoners were committed for trial on the capital charge, but after a long trial they were acquitted. The other case was not completed at the close of the year, but the accused has since been convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

73. In the Police Magistrate Court 817 cases and 1,116 persons were charged, as against 905 cases and 1,247 persons in 1911, showing a decrease of 88 cases and 131 persons charged. The greater number of these cases related to petty assaults and drunkenness. The cases dealt with by the Justices of the Peace for South Mahé and Praslin were 565 and were mostly of a petty nature. Twelve cases were dealt with by the Visiting Magistrate in the outlying islands.

74. The total value of property reported as lost was Rs. 4,551 of which Rs. 1,622 was recovered. The fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 15,023 compared with Rs. 12,429 in 1911.

75. The expenditure on the Legal Department during the year was Rs. 45,275.

Police Force.

76. The strength of the Force is 1 inspector, 1 sergeant-major, 3 sergeants, 10 corporals, and 61 constables, including 5 boatmen or harbour police. In addition to the above one corporal and 8 constables are paid by the Governments of the Gold Coast and Uganda, for services of men employed in connection with the political prisoners.

77. The number of police stations is 16. The cost of the police vote in 1912 amounted to Rs. 42,391.

Prisons.

78. 564 men and 150 women were committed to prison during 1912, as compared with 426 men and 148 women in the previous year. The daily average was 52 men and 6 women. Of the above total, 392 men and 121 women were imprisoned in default of payment of fines.

79. The number of admissions to hospital was ten men and two women, the daily average on the sick list being one. There was no case of corporal punishment. Trades are taught to persons sentenced to imprisonment exceeding six months, viz., printing, bookbinding, carpentry, mason and tinsmith's work, and the working of mattresses, mats and baskets.

80. The total cost of the department was Rs. 12,682, and the earnings of prisoners amounted to Rs. 622.

VITAL STATISTICS.

81. The population on the 31st December, 1912, is calculated to be 23,507 souls, of whom 11,983 were males and 11,524 females, showing an increase over the former year of 402 persons. The population is 150 to the square mile.

82. The number of births during the year was 726 (352 males and 374 females) as compared with 738 in 1911, showing a decrease of 12 births in the year. 258, or one-third of the births, were illegitimate; of this number 104 were acknowledged by their father. The birth rate was 30·88 per thousand. There were 59 still births registered during the year.

83. The number of deaths recorded during the year was 347 (165 males and 182 females). Of the above 69 were children under one year of age, thus showing a decrease of 18 in number when compared with 1911. The death rate per 1,000 was 14·76.

84. One hundred marriages were celebrated during the year as compared with one hundred and forty in 1911.

CLIMATE.

85. The rainfall for the year reached 105·10 inches, a greater quantity than has fallen for several years; it was distributed through 183 days. The heaviest fall was on the 1st February, when 8·12 inches were registered.

86. The mean temperature was 77·7°. The range was from 72·1 on 10th September to 87·9 on 7th April.

87. The south east trades commenced on 2nd of May and ended on the 24th of October. The highest velocity of wind was registered on the 23rd June, when it reached 19·7.

88. The following is the meteorogical return for the year:—

Month.	Temperature.		Rainfall.		Date.	No. of days on which rain fell.
	Minimum.	Maximum.	Total.	Maximum.		
January ...	76·2	82·8	29·69	5·68	31st	23
February ...	77·7	84·3	18·70	8·12	1st	13
March	79·4	85·	3·19	0·69	22nd	10
April	79·2	85·6	5·06	0·90	18th	18
May	78·9	85·9	9·18	2·18	26th	19
June	77·5	82·9	7·13	3·34	4th	14
July	75·8	80·5	4·05	1·36	16th	21
August ...	76·	80·6	0·76	0·19	29th	13
September ...	76·7	82·2	5·08	2·60	1st	11
October ...	76·5	82·9	4·37	1·72	23rd	13
November ...	76·4	83·1	4·28	3·33	18th	8
December ...	75·7	82·9	13·61	4·84	20th	20
Mean temperature for year.	77·7	83·3	105·10 Total.	—	—	183 Total.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

89. There is a monthly service by the Messageries Maritimes Steamship Company homewards and outwards. This service has now been arranged to run four-weekly. The transit from here to Marseilles or vice versa takes normally 17 days. A subsidy of Rs. 1,750 for one call each way per mensem has been paid by the Colony. During the past year, owing to the wreck of one of these steamers and the strike at Marseilles, there has been some irregularity in the arrival and departure of the mails. Mails are also brought and taken by the British India and D.O.A.L. steamers which call at Mahé on their voyages between Bombay and Zanzibar, but neither of these lines run in connection with homeward steamers at the above ports.

Post Office.

90. The total receipts during the year were Rs. 19,430, as compared with Rs. 17,471 in 1911; and the local expenditure was Rs. 13,241, as against Rs. 12,215 in 1911. The above does not include sale of revenue stamps, Rs. 3,624, or the mail subsidy paid, Rs. 46,297. This latter sum would bring the total cost of the mail service to Rs. 59,539.

91. The Money Order service shows a very marked decrease of Rs. 142,794 in issues, and Rs. 4,092 in receipts, due in a great measure to the institution of a branch of the Bank of Mauritius. Postal Order business shows a slight increase.

Telegraph and Telephone.

92. The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company has a station at Victoria, Mahé. The cost per word to the United Kingdom is Rs. 1·90 by ordinary rate and 95 cents by deferred rate. Government cables are sent at half rates. The rate to Mauritius is 75 cents per word. The Government subsidy of Rs. 15,000 per annum under agreement 23rd November, 1893, expires on the 23rd November, 1913.

93. There is no inter-island telegraph service and there are no telephones, with the exception of a private line connecting the Medical Superintendent's quarters and the Lunatic Asylum at Anse Royale.

Military Forces.

94. There is no armament and no armed force in the Colony.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

95. Mr. W. E. Davidson, C.M.G., who had been Governor of this Colony since 30th May, 1904, was promoted to the Government of Newfoundland and left to take up his new appointment on the 17th December, 1912, amid many manifestations of regret on the part of the inhabitants of Seychelles.

Public Works.

96. The principal work of the year has been the building of the new Government House which, at the time of writing this report, is approaching completion. The work done in 1912 consisted practically of the completion of the major portion of the building work, leaving the interior, carpentering, joinery, and plastering to be done in the current year. The building has undergone many modifications from the original design, which have postponed its completion. It is an edifice far in advance of any undertaken in this Colony, and reflects credit on the architects and builder, the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, Public Works Department. The total cost, including excavations for foundations, to the end of 1912 was Rs. 49,713.

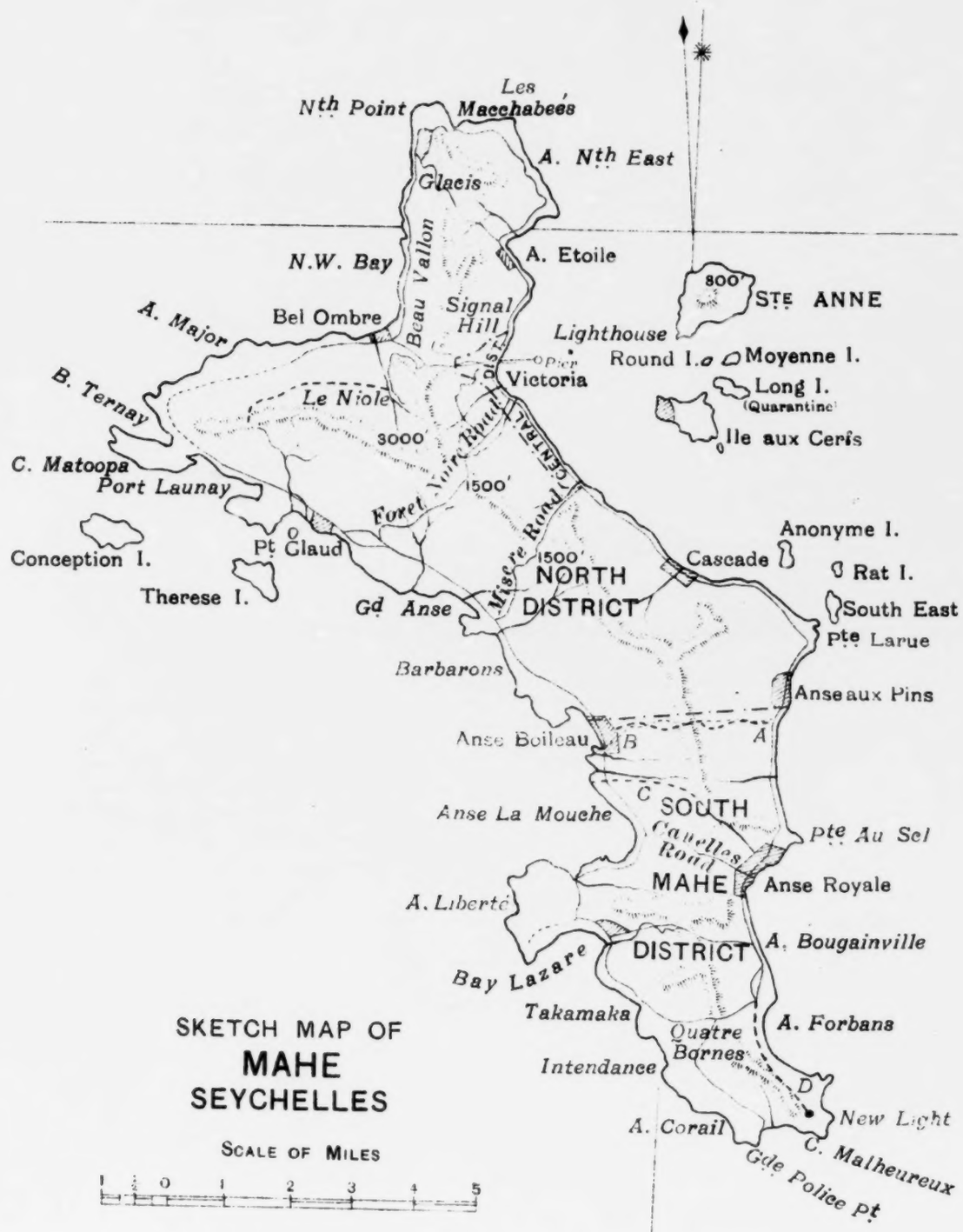
97. Other major works of the department have been: the construction of the new dangerous-goods warehouse, cost Rs. 3,513, and the rebuilding and adding an upper storey to the bungalow for Europeans on quarantine island, cost Rs. 4,595; completion of the new lighthouse on the island of Mamelles, Rs. 994; erection of new police station at Anse Boudin, Praslin, Rs. 2,000 (by contract); installation of a motor engine in the cutter "Wave" (by Messrs. Pare, Newsam & Pare), cost Rs. 3,750; completion of the new road from Anse aux Pins to Anse Boileau, Rs.11,834.

General.

98. The main industries of the island are agricultural, the cultivation and care of vanilla, coconut and rubber plantations. Labour is plentiful. The rates of wages are:—Agricultural labourers, Rs. 10 to Rs. 15, domestic servants, Rs. 10 to Rs. 25, carpenters, Rs. 20 to Rs. 40, masons, Rs. 20 to Rs. 35, and blacksmiths, Rs. 25 to Rs. 60 per mensem. A considerable proportion of the people are employed in fishing, as fish forms the staple article of diet of the islanders. The cost of living has considerably increased since the preparation and export of coprah have been developed. Previous to this most of the coconuts were turned into coconut oil and the residue, called poonac, was used as fodder for cattle, pig and poultry; as this is no longer available other foodstuffs have to be purchased, resulting in a far higher price being asked for market produce. The freedom from endemic disease, the equable climate, and the ease with which life may be sustained should make a happy and contented people.

C. R. M. O'Brien,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Governor.

Victoria,
Mahé, Seychelles,
26th June, 1913.



SKETCH MAP OF
MAHE
SEYCHELLES

SCALE OF MILES

1 0 1 2 3 4 5

REFERENCE

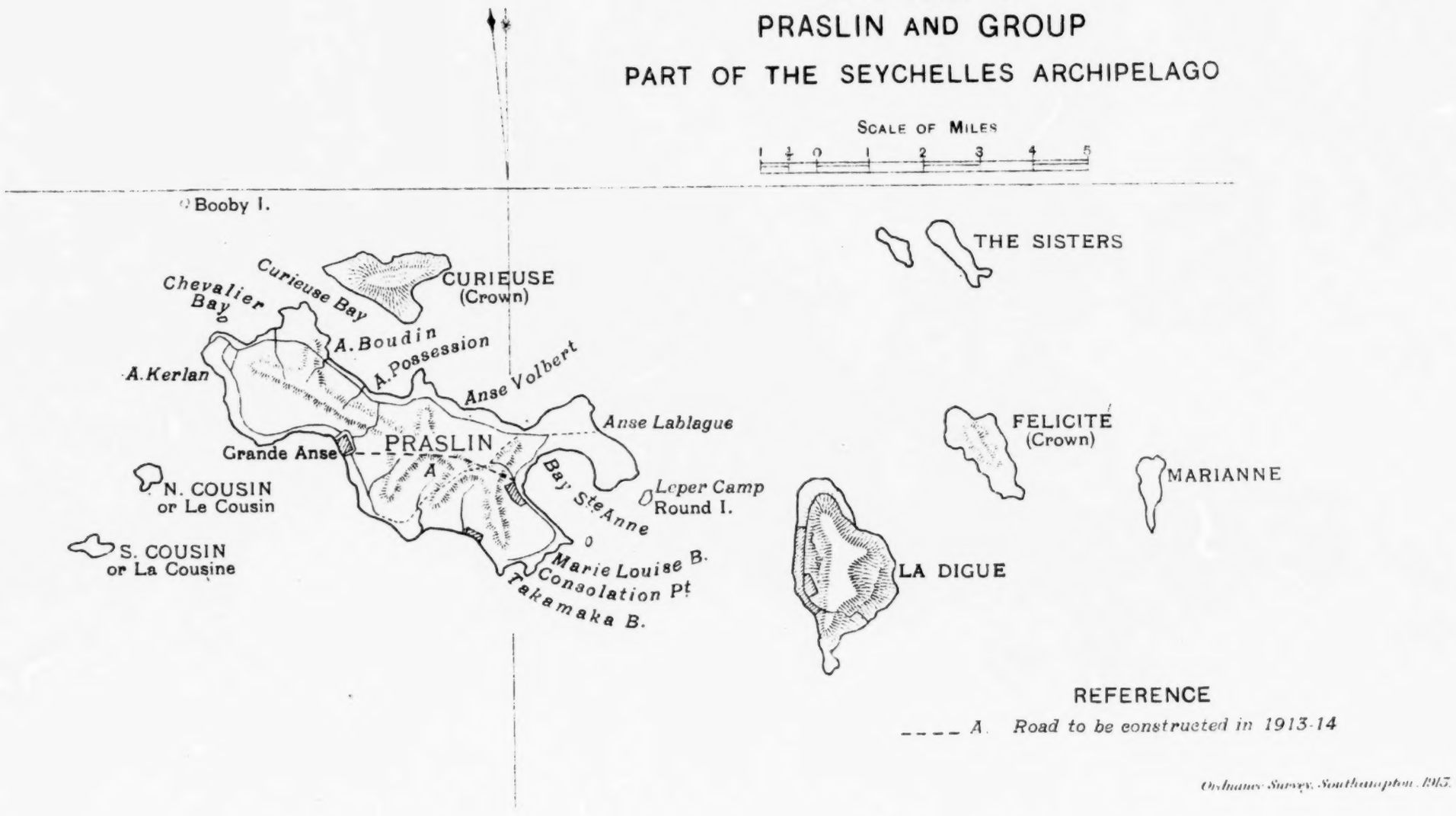
----- A to B *New Road*
----- C *New Mountain Path*
----- D *Path in course of construction to New Light*

Ordnance Survey, Southampton, 1913.

SKETCH MAP OF
PRASLIN AND GROUP
PART OF THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIPELAGO

SCALE OF MILES

1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5



REFERENCE

---- A. *Road to be constructed in 1913-14*

Ordnance Survey, Southampton. 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c	Year.
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	1911
733	British Honduras	1910
734	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1911
735	Southern Nigeria	1911–1912
736	Somaliland	1911
737	Imperial Institute	"
738	Northern Nigeria	1911–1912
739	Jamaica	"
740	Swaziland	"
741	Bahamas	1911
742	Grenada	1911–1912
743	Uganda	1911
744	Mauritius	1911–1912
745	Trinidad and Tobago	"
746	British Guiana	"
747	St. Vincent	"
748	Barbados	"
749	Leeward Islands	1911
750	Straits Settlements	1911–1912
751	East Africa Protectorate	"
752	St. Lucia	1911
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1911–1912
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912
755	Gibraltar	"
756	St. Helena	"
757	Weihaiwei	1911–1912
758	Ceylon	1912
759	Sierra Leone	

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments.

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By DARLING AND SON, LTD., BACON STREET, E.

1913.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 801.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 760.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1914.

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No. 801.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1912, see No. 760.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
27th May, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1913, together with a report thereon.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
C. R. M. O'BRIEN,
Lt.-Col., Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(C50.) Wt.36076/850. 1125-90. 7.14. B.&F. Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1913.

FINANCE.

1. The Revenue collected in 1913 reached the total of Rs.557,163, being the highest amount attained hitherto in the Colony. It exceeds the Revenue of 1912 by Rs.81,859 and of the previous best year (1911) by Rs.11,807.

2. The Expenditure for the year amounted to Rs.558,689, being Rs.21,916 less than the expenditure of 1912.

3. The year's transactions resulted in a small deficit of Rs.1,526. This was due to the payment of the large sum of Rs.12,434 on account of the expenses and costs of the Lanier Appeal ca e before the Privy Council, which was debited to account in the month of December. Had it not been for this heavy charge, which could not be foreseen or provided for in advance, there would have been a fair balance of revenue to carry forward at the end of the year.

4. The following are the details of Revenue for 1912–13 :—

Heads of Receipts.	1912. Rs.	1913. Rs.
1. Customs	224,261	253,975
2. Harbour dues	10,199	16,941
3. Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue	65,158	61,800
4. Taxes	50,224	53,052
5. Fees of Court or Office ..	26,967	41,412
6. Post Office	19,430	36,254
7. Crown Lands	60,883	71,059
8. Interest	13,136	15,030
9. Miscellaneous	5,042	7,637
	Rs.475,304	557,163

5. It is gratifying to record that under every head of revenue, with the one exception of " Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue," there is a marked increase as compared with the previous year. The large advance under " Customs " is due to the considerable increase in imported goods consequent on freer money and to increased exportation of guano : Harbour dues have increased in consequence of the larger number of guano-boats that have passed through the Port of Victoria in the year. The decrease under " Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue " is accounted for by the fact that several shops gave up business during the year. The small increase under " Taxes " is due to arrears of previous years having been recovered in 1913 and to more prompt measures for the payment of taxes. Under " Fees of Court " there was an increase of Rs.4,755 on subhead " Registration Fees " as compared with 1912. Heavy Bankruptcy fees were also collected during the year. The issue of " King George " stamps is mainly responsible for the large increase under " Post Office."

The increased exportation of guano resulted in the larger amount collected for "Royalty" under Head "Crown Lands." "Interest": the increased revenue resulted from the interest on several local investments made in 1912 being paid during 1913. The increased sale of medicines at the Government Pharmacy is the cause of the small increase under "Miscellaneous."

6. The following table gives a comparative statement of Expenditure in 1912–1913 under the various heads :—

Heads of Services.	1912. Rs.	1913. Rs.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt.	14,816	14,816
2. Pensions	14,157	15,595
3. Governor and Legislature ..	25,156	24,363
4. Treasury and Customs ..	21,036	21,589
5. Audit Department	5,863	5,999
6. Port and Marine Department	26,844	22,543
7. Legal Department	45,275	49,466
8. Police Department	42.391	39,589
9. Prison Department	12,681	11,736
10. Medical Department ..	52,503	55,048
11. Ecclesiastical Department ..	9,375	10,125
12. Education Department ..	43,530	44,830
13. Printing Department ..	4,927	4,722
14. Post Office	17,530	14,431
15. Transport	3,545	3,047
16. Agriculture and Crown Lands	23,127	15,353
17. Local Board, Central District	23,687	21,285
18. Local Board, South Mahé ..	5,492	5,212
19. Local Board, Praslin ..	2,944	2,819
20. Local Board, La Digue ..	2,161	1,627
21. Interest and Exchange ..	3,071	3,642
22. Miscellaneous	15,422	7,822
23. Telegraph and Steamer subsidies	54,250	61,250
24. Public Works Department	13,800	14,917
25. Public Works Recurrent ..	20,399	18,996
26. Public Works Extraordinary	76,610	67,854
	Rs.580,605	558,689

7. The principal increases as compared with the previous year are :— "Pensions"—due to new pensions granted in 1913. "Legal Department"—cost of appeal of L. E. Lanier to the Privy Council. "Medical Department"—an increased supply of drugs for the Government Pharmacy was ordered during the year. "Education Department"—amount voted under subhead "English Scholarships" proved insufficient. "Telegraph and Steamer Subsidies"—some calls of the Messageries Maritimes Steamers in 1912 were paid for in 1913. "Public Works Department"—part of the salary of Superintendent of Public Works lapsed to the Treasury in 1912.

8. Decreases appear under :—"Port and Marine Department"—extraordinary expenditure in 1912 was incurred which was not necessary in 1913. "Police Department"—large expenses in 1912 in connection with the recovery of the Lugger "La Haine." "Post Office"—there was a saving under "Official Postage and Telegrams" and "Transit of Mails." "Agriculture and Crown Lands"—provision of cost of Curator's mission to Ceylon in 1912 was not required in 1913. "Local Board, Central District"—some saving on expenditure as compared with previous year. "Miscellaneous"—chiefly due to expenditure incurred in 1912 for murder trial and refunds of royalty on guano overpaid in 1912. "Public Works Recurrent"—savings on expenditure as compared with 1912. "Public Works Extraordinary"—in 1912 the amount spent for the construction of the new Government House was Rs.6,851 in excess of the amount spent in 1913.

9. The following table gives the revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Years.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1909	511,316	519,158
1910	543,650	491,589
1911	545,356	512,167
1912	475,304	580,605
1913	557,163	552,689

10. The year under review has been a favourable one: the small excess of expenditure over revenue, as already explained in paragraph 3, was a matter which could not be controlled. The guano export was large. The price of coprah remained high throughout the year, and it may be presumed that the Colony has recovered in some degree from the adverse effects of the bankruptcies in 1911. On the other hand, vanilla has again been disappointing, the value exported last year being even smaller than in 1912.

11. No additional taxation was imposed during 1913. The Customs Tariff Ordinance was amended and consolidated and some minor alterations were made. Under Ordinance No. 6 of 1913, a licence duty was imposed on cinematographs and merry-go-rounds, and a small tax was levied on carts, carriages, horses, rickshaws, bicycles, and dogs, but the law was not brought into operation until the 1st January, 1914. It is not anticipated that considerable revenue will be derived from these new taxes.

Assets and Liabilities.

12. The Assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1913, were as follows :—

	Rs.
Cash (local and in hands of Crown Agents)	73,353
Investments by Crown Agents on account of Savings Bank	63,978
Investments by Crown Agents on account of General Revenue	117,033
Loans to Planters	156,750
Advances due by various Colonies ..	12,549
	Rs.423,664

The Liabilities include :—

	Rs.
Deposits, Savings Bank	77,119
Deposits, Miscellaneous	70,697
Balance of Family Remittance	465
	148,282

leaving a balance in favour of assets of Rs.275,382.

Public Debt.

13. The Public Debt of the Colony consists of a loan of originally £20,000 from the Imperial Treasury repayable in thirty annual instalments of capital and interest of Rs.14,816, of which thirteen have been paid, leaving a balance of Rs.199,031 to be completed by the year 1929.

Local Boards.

14. There are four Local Boards of Health viz :—Local Board, Central District (including the Northern portion of the Island of Mahé) and the Local Boards for South Mahé, Praslin Island, La Digue Island respectively.

15. All taxes and rates collected by the Boards are credited to general revenue and a sum is provided by the Legislative Council annually for the expenses of each Board.

TRADE.

16. The gross value of imports for the year and their distribution according to countries of origin is shown below :—

	Rs.
From United Kingdom	422,754
From British Colonies	589,208
From Foreign Countries	267,979
	1,279,942

being an increase of Rs.103,431 compared with the imports of 1912.

17. The most important increases during the year are :—From the United Kingdom (Rs.74,703), India (Rs.41,045), Arabia (Rs.22,350), France (Rs.14,685), and the United States of America (Rs.12,764).

18. The imports from the United States of America and Arabia are for the first time shown separately. Kerosene oil and coffee have previously been shown under the countries from which they were imported and not under the country of origin.

19. The principal countries from which our imports are derived are :—

	Rs.
India	500,140
United Kingdom	422,754
France	184,829
Mauritius	77,136
Arabia	22,350
French Colonies	16,419
United States	12,764
Germany	11,662

20. The principal items of imports include :—

(1) Foodstuffs, Rs.529,231. A large proportion of the above is rice which is imported from India.

(2) Cotton goods, Rs.203,305. The consignments are divided between United Kingdom (Rs.98,323), India (Rs.80,376) and France (Rs.24,331).

(3) Haberdashery, Rs.48,865. Principally obtained from the United Kingdom (Rs.28,667) and France (Rs.16,802).

(4) Hardware and Ironware. The turnover in these two items amounted to Rs.15,091 and Rs.30,086, respectively. The larger proportion of these amounts came from the United Kingdom, France being the next in importance.

(5) Machinery, Rs.33,880. Rs.11,647 was obtained from the United Kingdom and Rs.22,040 from France, the latter being the value of an essential oil plant imported from that country.

(6) Sugar, Rs.58,350. Obtained entirely from Mauritius.

(7) Specie, Rs.30,000. Imported from Mauritius.

(8) Spirits, Wine and Beer :—Wines, Rs.53,092 ; Spirits, Rs.32,183 ; Ale and Beer, Rs.4,754.—Total Rs.90,029.

The amount of customs duties collected on spirits, wine and beer in 1913 was Rs.111,935.

There has been of late years a decided falling off in the importation of rum, due no doubt, in a great measure, to the preparation of "Bacca," the popular drink of the peasantry. "Bacca" is the fermented juice of the sugar-cane. Proposals are now under consideration for the proper control of the manufacture and sale of this beverage.

Exports.

21. The total value of the exports in 1913 amounted to Rs.2,484,202, showing the substantial advance of Rs.727,154 over the previous year and being the highest value on record.

22. The distribution of the exports was as follows :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	663,076
British Possessions	143,273
Foreign Countries	1,677,852
	Rs.2,484,202

23. The items which show increases are :—Coprah, Guano, Tortoise-shell, Green Turtle Shells, Essential Oils, Rubber, Salted Fish, Fibre coir, Turtle Bones, and Boats and Accessories. The noteworthy decreases are :—Vanilla, Cinnamon bark, Mangrove bark, Coconut oil, Soap, Coconuts, Whale oil, Calipee and Coco de Mer.

24. The subjoined table gives the value of the export of our staple articles, coprah and vanilla, during the last five years :—

	Coprah.	Vanilla.
	Rs.	Rs.
1909	533,714	200,345
1910	862,857	450,239
1911	771,694	223,198
1912	801,196	151,331
1913	1,080,736	101,847

25. Coprah shows a very large and steady advance. Vanilla has largely declined, but there are indications that the crop this year will be an improvement on recent years.

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE.

Manufactures.

26. The workshop of Messrs. Pare, Newsam, & Pare, our only engineering firm, has been busily employed during the year. For the Government this firm built the sea-going motor boat "Shamrock," which has already been alluded to in the report for 1912. She is used for the conveyance of the Justice of the Peace and Medical Officer in charge of the Praslin District, to enable him to visit the islands under his charge in all weathers; she has proved satisfactory. Messrs. Pare, Newsam, & Pare have also built a number of lighters and boats for mercantile and shipping houses in Madagascar.

Fisheries.

27. The motor-propelled "St. Ebba," a whaler fitted with the latest improvements, arrived at Mahé in April 1913, and fished with success for two months. She belongs to the St. Abbs Whaling Company of Edinburgh. The Company contemplates starting operations in this Colony on a large scale and are negotiating for a site for the establishment of a land factory for the manufacture of whale oil and using the bye-products for guano.

28. The legislation regarding whale fishery is at present under revision. There is every indication that the industry will become well established in the Seychelles. The waters around these islands are described by experts as being a good hunting ground for whales.

29. The rearing of carets in captivity has received a great blow during the year. A disease broke out suddenly in the parks of the Mahé Syndicate, Ltd., at Alphonse and St. Francois Islands, and all the young carets were found dead in the parks on the same day. The Overseers on the Islands state the disease gradually increased in virulence. The experiments at Curieuse Island have not proved more successful.

30. The whole question of the protection of fish, caret, and turtles, and of legislation governing the issue of licenses to fish, is under consideration.

AGRICULTURE.

31. The crop of coconuts in 1913 reached the estimated figure of 26,036,206 nuts, being the highest number ever produced in the Colony. This shows an increase of 1,163,082 nuts over 1912. Nearly 21,000,000 nuts were manufactured into coprah.

32. It is estimated there are over 12,000 acres of land under coconut cultivation in the Colony.

33. Coconuts were sold locally during the year at the high rate of Rs.50 to Rs.55 per thousand. Coprah was quoted at the average rate of £30 a ton in Europe.

34. Some of the larger estates have adopted improved methods of cultivation and it is hoped in time their example will be followed by the smaller planters.

35. Attempts have been made to interest planters to take up the culture of the palm oil nuts in districts unsuitable for coconut-growing. This oil plant is not only considered useful as providing a residual food for animals in place of poonac, but also as supplying an excellent oil for the manufacture of soap and other industries. The manufacture of both coconut oil and soap has suffered from that of coprah and a raw material other than the coconut, as good and as cheap, is required for the manufacture of soap and for supplying poonac for cattle and animals.

36. The crop of vanilla was even less than that of 1912, and was the lowest on record since 1895. It amounted to a little over 5 tons. The prices, which ruled high throughout the year, have induced planters to devote more attention to that vine. The question of the manuring of vanilla has been seriously taken up by a few prominent planters and with promising results. A complete set of experiments is being arranged at the Botanic Station to assist planters in the selection of the cheapest and most efficient method of manuring. It is also contemplated to carry out field trials with the object of determining the best physical and bacteriological conditions of the soil and the best method of irrigation and selection of vines to be used as cuttings. It is hoped these experiments will be watched with interest and followed by the planting community and that good will result therefrom. There are indications of a better crop in 1914.

37. The distillation of essential oils from the lemon grass, cinnamon leaves, and cloves, &c. has made great strides. A new still, capable of large distillations, was erected during the year on Barbarons Estate by the enterprise of Mr. d'Emmerez de Charmoy. Specimens of lemon grasses were obtained from Ceylon and distributed among planters. A sample of ylang ylang oil was analysed by the Imperial Institute and favourably reported upon.

38. A small supply of citrate of lime was made at Silhouette Island, mostly from bigarades. The cultivation of citrus fruits also received some attention during 1913, but they are very liable to the attacks of the scale insects now prevalent.

39. The rubber industry is slowly showing signs of improvement. The total acreage under cultivation was estimated at 1,100 acres. The price, however, has been so unremunerative that much tapping of trees has been left in abeyance.

Crown Lands.

40. No new grants of Crown Lands were made during the year. One lease of Crown Land at Praslin was transferred and two new leases in Mahé were entered into.

41. The work of reafforestation of the central plateau of Mahé acquired by the Government is still being proceeded with. A large number of plants of all kinds were planted out during the year.

Shipping.

42. The total tonnage of merchant vessels entered and cleared at Port Victoria, Seychelles, was 323,287 tons as compared with 349,830 in 1912. The nationality of the steamers entered is represented as follows :—

British	22
French	25
German	19
Dutch	1
Norwegian	1
Swedish	1
American	1
	70

43. The following statement gives the number of vessels which have called at Mahé during the last five years :—

	Steamers.	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
1909	64	12	76
1910	82	11	93
1911	89	7	96
1912	77	7	84
1913	70	5	75

44. Three ships of war visited the Colony during 1913, two of which were British (H.M.S. "Hyacinth," flying the flag of Rear-Admiral King Hall, C.V.O., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief of the Cape Squadron, and H.M.S. "Astrea,") the other being the German Cruiser "See-Adler," which made a considerable stay in our waters.

45. The Government launch "Alexandra" made 42 voyages during the year and conveyed 1,203 passengers. A general survey of her engines and boiler was made by the Engineer-Commander of H.M.S. "Hyacinth" in July. She was laid by during the south-east trade winds and her engines were overhauled.

46. The auxiliary motor boat "Wave" made regular monthly trips with stores and rations to the lighthouses at Denis and Mamelles Islands. She also replaced the "Alexandra" during the time she was laid by. She made 65 voyages in all.

47. The motor boat "Pearl" is used for harbour work and for taking passengers to the Quarantine Station. She made 419 voyages to the outer harbour.

48. The motor boat "Shamrock" was delivered in April. She was built for the use of the Justice of the Peace, Praslin, and has proved a great boon in enabling him to visit La Digue and other islands of the group.

49. The Lighthouse service was maintained in a high state of efficiency throughout the year.

LEGISLATION.

50. Sixteen Ordinances were passed, of which the most important are :—

No. 3 of 1913.—"An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Customs Tariffs on Imports and Exports." Minor alterations in former Ordinances were made.

No. 4 of 1913.—"An Ordinance to amend the law relating to Notaries."

No. 5 of 1913.—"An Ordinance to make provision with regard to accidents by boiler explosions."

No. 6 of 1913.—"An Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 3 of 1910 (The Licences Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance, 1910). A licence duty was imposed on cinematographs, merry-go-rounds, carriages, rickshaws, and a small tax on certain animals.

No. 11 of 1913.—"An Ordinance to regulate the Whale Fishery in the Colony of Seychelles." This Ordinance lays down the conditions on which licences are granted, the amount to be paid, and the conditions on which land factories can be established.

No. 13 of 1913.—"An Ordinance to provide for improvement of the foreshore and coastline of Seychelles." The Governor in Executive Council is empowered to authorise the filling up of foreshore on certain conditions.

No. 16 of 1913.—"An Ordinance to regulate the use of motor cars."

EDUCATION.

51. The number of pupils attending the schools of the Colony was 2,692 as compared with 2,663 in 1912. The average attendance was 1,989, being about 57 per cent. of the population of school age. This percentage, unfortunately, shows no signs of increasing. Greater desire is evinced by the white parents to secure education for their children, but a great part of the coloured population outside Victoria show little interest.

52. The number of Grant-in-Aid schools is 24 : 20 of these schools are managed by the Roman Catholic clergy, the remainder by the Church of England. The number of pupils from the Grant-in-Aid schools presented for examination was 1,558, being 72·7 per cent. of the number on the roll. Of the pupils examined 1,238 passed, a percentage of 79 as compared with 77 in the previous year.

53. The number of pupils attending King's College, and its preparatory branch, Victoria School, was 76 in 1913 as compared with 77 in 1912. In the Government Free School, there were in December 89 pupils as compared with 99 in the previous year. The average attendance at the King's College was 71, or 93 per cent. of the number on the roll.

54. The School House was continued under the same arrangements as before and supplies an evident need and enjoys the confidence of the parents.

55. Besides the King's College, there are two denominational secondary schools in the Colony : The St. Louis College for boys which is conducted by the Marist Brothers and the St. Joseph's Convent School for girls, under the direction of the Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny. Both these schools obtained creditable results.

56. Twenty-four pupils of the Convent School were examined under the Government programme for the higher education of girls. Ten pupils hold Government exhibitions entitling them to free board and tuition.

57. The Seychelles Scholarship for 1913 was awarded to Daniel Hermitte who left in March to commence the study of medicine at Edinburgh University. Of the ten scholarships given out of Government funds, two of the laureates are working in Seychelles, four in other countries. Four of the ten have not yet completed their studies. Five of the total mentioned have adopted the legal profession, two medicine, and three engineering.

58. The total amount of Colonial funds spent on education was Rs.44,830.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital and Dispensaries.

Victoria Hospital.

59. The total number of in-patients treated at the Victoria Hospital was 535, being 18 less than in 1912. There were 28 deaths. Increased accommodation on the female side, including provision for two private wards, is now being carried out. 75 operations were performed at the hospital during the year.

Dispensaries.

60. 2,120 persons received treatment at the Government Dispensaries, of whom 1,241 attended at the Victoria Dispensary.

Principal Diseases.

61. There were no epidemic diseases during the year. Beri-beri has practically ceased to exist. There was rather more dysentery than usual, treatment by means of emetine was commenced, and gave the most excellent results, cases of chronic dysentery were cured within a few days. The islands forming the Aldabra Group have become infested with chiggers, the infection apparently being introduced from the Madagascar islands. All vessels coming from these islands are subject to medical inspection and labourers are not allowed to proceed to their houses until they have been thoroughly examined. The Visiting Magistrate (Dr. Power), who has just returned from a tour of inspection of those islands, reports a marked diminution in the number of cases.

Sanitation.

62. A Quarantine Inspector has been appointed for the town of Victoria. His duties are to assist the Secretary Inspector and to make, with the help of a labourer, a campaign against rats and mosquito propagation. The plan worked well. The chief places infested with rats were the Customs sheds on the Long Pier and, by means of traps and poisons, these places have been almost cleared of rats. House to house visitations are made and householders are required to keep their premises clean and free from mosquito-breeding receptacles. The genera sanitary condition of the town was satisfactory.

Leper Asylum.

63. There were seven patients remaining in the Leper Asylum at the end of the year. Three patients died during 1913.

Pauper Camp.

64. This Camp, as well as the Leper Asylum, is situated on Round Island, Praslin. Both are under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of that District and are well supervised. There were 23 inmates in the Camp at the close of the year.

Lunatic Asylum.

65. The average number of patients was 20. Seven new patients were admitted, 2 males and 5 females. Two males and one female were discharged as cured. There was no case of second admission during the year. On the 31st December there were 8 males and 14 females remaining in the Asylum as patients.

Maternity Home.

66. The Maternity Home has continued to enjoy the confidence of all classes. 204 patients were admitted and 166 babies were born. The accommodation has been increased by the conversion of the premises adjacent to the Home purchased in 1912 into quarters for the staff. The former quarters of the nursing staff being used as six wards, two for first class, and four for second class patients.

Medical Staff.

67. A European nurse was added to the staff of the Maternity Home to assist the Matron, whose duties had become too onerous.

68. Sister Catherine, who for twenty-three years has been attached to the Victoria Hospital nursing staff, retired on pension at the end of the year.

Savings Bank.

69. The Government Savings Banks comprise the Central Savings Bank at Victoria and a Branch Savings Bank at Praslin. The balance remaining to the credit of depositors on 31st December 1913 was Rs.77,119, an increase of Rs.8,215 on the balance of the year 1912. The Savings Bank funds are invested in Government securities, the revenue derived from interest on those investments amounted to Rs.2,478. There were 388 accounts remaining open at the end of the year.

JUDICIAL.

70. There were 685 civil cases tried during the year, a large increase as compared with previous years; this is largely accounted for by the greater number of tax cases which under the law are brought before the Supreme Court. The total of civil cases in the last five years reads as follows:—1909, 245; 1910, 302; 1911, 356; 1912, 355; 1913, 685.

71. The number of cases dealt with on the criminal side by the Supreme Court was 163, being less than any number returned during the past ten years. Previous to the year under review, the maximum number of trials was 466, in 1906, and the minimum 208, in 1903. With very few exceptions the cases were not of a serious nature.

72. 688 cases were tried in the Police Court as compared with 817 in the previous year. Since 1910 there has been a steady decline in the number of Police Court cases. The returns are as follows:—

Years.	No. of cases.	No. of persons charged.
1910	1,044	 1,402
1911	905	 1,247
1912	817	 1,116
1913	688	 906

As is usual, drunkenness, disturbances, and indecent language supply the majority of the cases. The Police Courts presided over by the Justices of the Peace in South Mahé and Praslin, in uniformity with the Police Court of Victoria, show a derease in the number of persons brought before them. In South Mahé 129 persons, and in Praslin 251 persons, were charged, as compared with 213 and 352 respectively during the previous year.

Police Force.

73. The force consisted of one inspector, 1 sergeant major, 3 sergeants, 10 corporals, 17 first-class constables, 16 second-class constables, 23 third-class constables, and 5 boatmen or harbour police. The total strength is 76. In addition to the above, 1 corporal and 8 men are paid by the Gold Coast and Uganda Governments for services in connection with the guarding of political prisoners. The number of Police Stations is 16.

74. The total number of offences of every description investigated by the Police during the year was 2,679, in connection with which 1,392 persons were arrested or charged before the Courts. The amount of property alleged to have been stolen was valued at Rs.886, of which Rs.326 was recovered by the Police. The amount of fines imposed by the Courts as the result of police prosecutions was Rs.13,636.

Prisons.

75. 616 men and 187 women were committed to prison during the year against 564 men and 150 women in 1912, an increase of 52 men and 37 women. Of the above one man was imprisoned for debt, 503 men and 164 women for non-payment of fines and costs. The daily average was 53 men and 6 women. 17 men and 3 women were admitted to hospital; the daily average on the sick list was one. One death occurred during the year. One prisoner escaped but was recaptured on the same day. There was no case of corporal punishment inflicted.

76. The prisoners are employed in breaking stones, beating coconut fibre, mat-making, bookbinding, printing, tinsmithing, carpentering, and useful work for Government.

77. The sanitary condition of the prison was satisfactory throughout the year.

78. The total expenditure of the department was Rs.11,736. The revenue derived from prison labour amounted to Rs.334. Clothes and mattresses are made free of charge for the Medical Department

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VITAL STATISTICS.

79. The population of the Colony on the 31st December last is calculated to have been 23,777 souls, of whom 12,039 were males and 11,738 females, shewing an increase over the previous year of 270 souls, of whom 56 were males and 214 females.

80. The births amounted to 778 (386 males and 392 females), being an increase of 52, of whom 34 were males and 18 females, as compared with 1912. Of the above number 273 were illegitimate, 74 of whom have been acknowledged by their fathers. There have been 13 twin births during the year, of whom 5 twins were males, 2 twins females, and 5 males and females, and 2 males still-born. The birth-rate was 32·72 per thousand. There were 67 still-births registered during the year.

81. 363 deaths (190 males and 173 females) were recorded as compared with 347 in 1912. The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 66, being a decrease of 3 as compared with the previous year. The death-rate per thousand was 15·26.

82. 120 marriages were celebrated during the year, being an increase of 11 over the previous year. The births in 1913 exceeded the deaths by 415.

CLIMATE.

83. The total rainfall for the year was 67·71 inches. This is much below the average for the last ten years. Rain fell on 111 days. The heaviest fall was on the 15th February, when 4·74 inches were registered. September was the driest and December the wettest month.

84. The mean temperature was 79·8°. The range was from 70·7° on the 20th August to 86·8° on the 6th of April.

85. The South East monsoon commenced on the 15th May and ended on the 15th October. The highest velocity of wind recorded was on the 18th May, when it reached 19·6 miles per hour.

86. The following is the meteorological return for the year :—

Month.	Temperature		Rainfall.			
	Min.	Max.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Number of days on which rain fell.
			ins.	ins.		
January	76·8	82·7	6·29	1·06	12th	8½
February	77·7	84·5	7·31	4·74	15th	8
March	76·5	84·3	11·14	2·76	18th	9½
April	78·4	80·0	4·96	1·81	18th	7½
May	79·0	84·9	2·71	0·56	28th	10½
June	77·5	82·6	3·34	0·84	22nd	13
July	76·1	80·9	4·81	0·72	11th	13½
August	75·9	80·5	2·35	0·42	17th	12½
September	75·8	81·1	0·24	0·15	8th	2½
October	77·0	82·2	2·50	0·28	28th	5
November	76·1	83·3	8·34	2·18	17th	9½
December	76·7	82·8	13·72	2·72	3rd	11½
Mean ..	77·0	82·6	67·71 Total.			111½ Total.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

87. The Messageries Maritimes mail steamer calls at Mahé every 28 days, both outward and homeward bound. The transit from and to Marseilles is 17 days. The Company receives from the Colony a subsidy of Rs.1,750 for each call, provided there are no more than 26 calls a year, 13 of which are required to be in the homeward direction. The service was performed with fair regularity during the year. The

wreck of the MM. " Adour " in February caused a break in the monthly communication with Europe in that month. Mails are also brought and taken by the British India and the D.O.A.L. steamers. The former call at Mahé once a month on their way from Bombay to East African ports and are very regular. Calls by the D.O.A.L. were more or less spasmodic during 1913. At the end of the year a new line was started between Colombo and Seychelles, connecting at the first named port with the Bibby Line to and from London, but up to the time of writing this report the service has not been performed with regularity.

Post Office.

88. The revenue of the Post Office in 1913 was Rs.36,255, or nearly double that of 1912. This sum does not include the sum of Rs.3,561 collected from the sale of revenue stamps. The local expenditure was Rs.14,432. This latter sum does not include the amount paid on account of the mail subsidy. The large revenue shown above is due to increased sale of stamps to collectors. A new issue of the King George V Head stamps was brought into use during the year.

89. Postal Order business shows a good advance. Rs.9,694, as compared with Rs. 7081 in 1912. The Money Order service shows an increase of Rs.6,444 on the orders paid, and a decrease of Rs.2,475 on orders issued. Local Money Orders have advanced from Rs.5,281 in 1912 to Rs.8,638 in 1913. The number of letters, postcards, &c. dealt with by the Post Office shows a slight increase on the former year. In 1913, 3,147 parcels by Parcels Post were dealt with, against 2,820 in 1912.

Telegraph and Telephone.

90. The Government subsidy of Rs.15,000 per annum paid to the Eastern and South African Telegraph Company expired on the 23rd November, 1913. The Company has retained its Station in Mahé. There were no changes in the rates of the Company.

91. There are no telephones, with the exception of a line connecting the Medical Superintendent's quarters with the Lunatic Asylum in South Mahé. There is no inter-island telegraph service. Attempts were made during the year to communicate with the neighbouring island of Praslin by means of the heliograph. Some of the experiments were successful, but it was found the weather on several occasions prevented the flashes from being read.

MILITARY FORCES.

92. There is no armament and no armed force in the Colony.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

93. Letters Patent bearing date of the 30th April, 1913, were issued, empowering the Governor of Seychelles to appoint a Deputy in the event of his temporary absence from the seat of the Government. These Letters Patent were duly proclaimed in the Colony on the 7th June, 1913. A Royal Warrant dated 31st May, 1913, was published on the 6th August, 1913, authorising the use of a new seal prepared for the Colony of Seychelles.

Public Works.

94. The new Government House was completed at a cost of Rs.76,411. The expenditure was spread over four years. The Governor went into residence in the middle of August. The building is a handsome piece of work, far in advance of anything previously attempted in the Colony. The grounds have been carefully laid out and promise to be very beautiful. The adjoining lands of 22 acres in extent known as "Terrain Dugand" were acquired at a cost of Rs.6,036, and added to the present Government House estate.

95. The more important works of the Public Works Department comprise:—Improvements to the Quarantine Station at Long Island undertaken at a cost of Rs.840; a Rest House erected in Victoria, intended for the use of Government officials located in the districts or others on first arrival in the Colony, and also for the convenience of passengers passing through the Port of Victoria (the present hotel accommodation is very indifferent). The building was not quite completed at the close of the year. The amount spent in 1913 was Rs.5,154. The Glacis road was widened at its narrow parts and generally improved. The new road from Anse aux Pins to Anse Boileau was completed at a total cost of Rs.21,221. The work of erecting a breakwater on Mamelles Island to facilitate landing on the Island in all weathers was commenced. The sum of Rs.937 was spent in converting the property acquired in 1912 into quarters for the nursing staff of the Maternity Home. A commencement was made on the survey of the island of Praslin, and it is estimated that about half the work has been done.

Outlying Islands.

96. The outlying islands were more systematically visited during the year. Frigate, Denis, North Island, and Silhouette were visited by the Governor, and Coetivy, Daros, Desroches, Poivre, Remire, Marie Louise, Alphonse, St. Pierre and Assumption Islands, by the Visiting Magistrate.

General.

97. The year may be looked on as a favourable one; as already mentioned, the largely increased value of the exports points to greater freedom in the circulation of money and this is further borne out by the larger revenue collected and the greater ease with which it has been effected. The guano industry gives employment to a considerable number of labourers, but in spite of the demands of the outlying islands, planters cannot reasonably complain of any shortage in labour or grumble at its cost. Where the standard and cost of living among the labouring classes is so low the incentive to hard and strenuous work is not high, and it is to be regretted that so many of our islanders take such long rests between their engagements for labour, and that they do not while at work put more strength into its accomplishment. The intelligence and training of the skilled labourers is considerable, but the amount of work completed in any given time is disappointing, and falls far behind that of which they are capable. There should be no real cases of poverty if the people

were less improvident. There is ample work for the able-bodied to be obtained in the Colony and the outlying islands. Although it cannot be denied that the ravages of the scale insects have considerably increased the price of fruit, and the discontinuance of the manufacture of coconut oil, having deprived the island of its store of poonac for fodder, has had a considerable effect on the price of poultry and meat, yet the cost of living cannot be said to be excessive when, frequently, eight mackerel can be obtained for two cents, particularly when it is borne in mind that fish is the main article of diet among the people.

98. The steadily increasing yield of the coconut trees, owing to new trees coming into bearing, and more careful methods of planting and manuring, is one of the pleasantest factors in the agricultural situation. The prices both of coprah and vanilla remain high, and the outlook may be accepted as promising. The absence of serious crime, the freedom from fever and epidemic disease, and the equable climate, added to the ease with which the necessities of life can be obtained, are all points which make the Seychelles an ideal spot for persons of small or limited means.

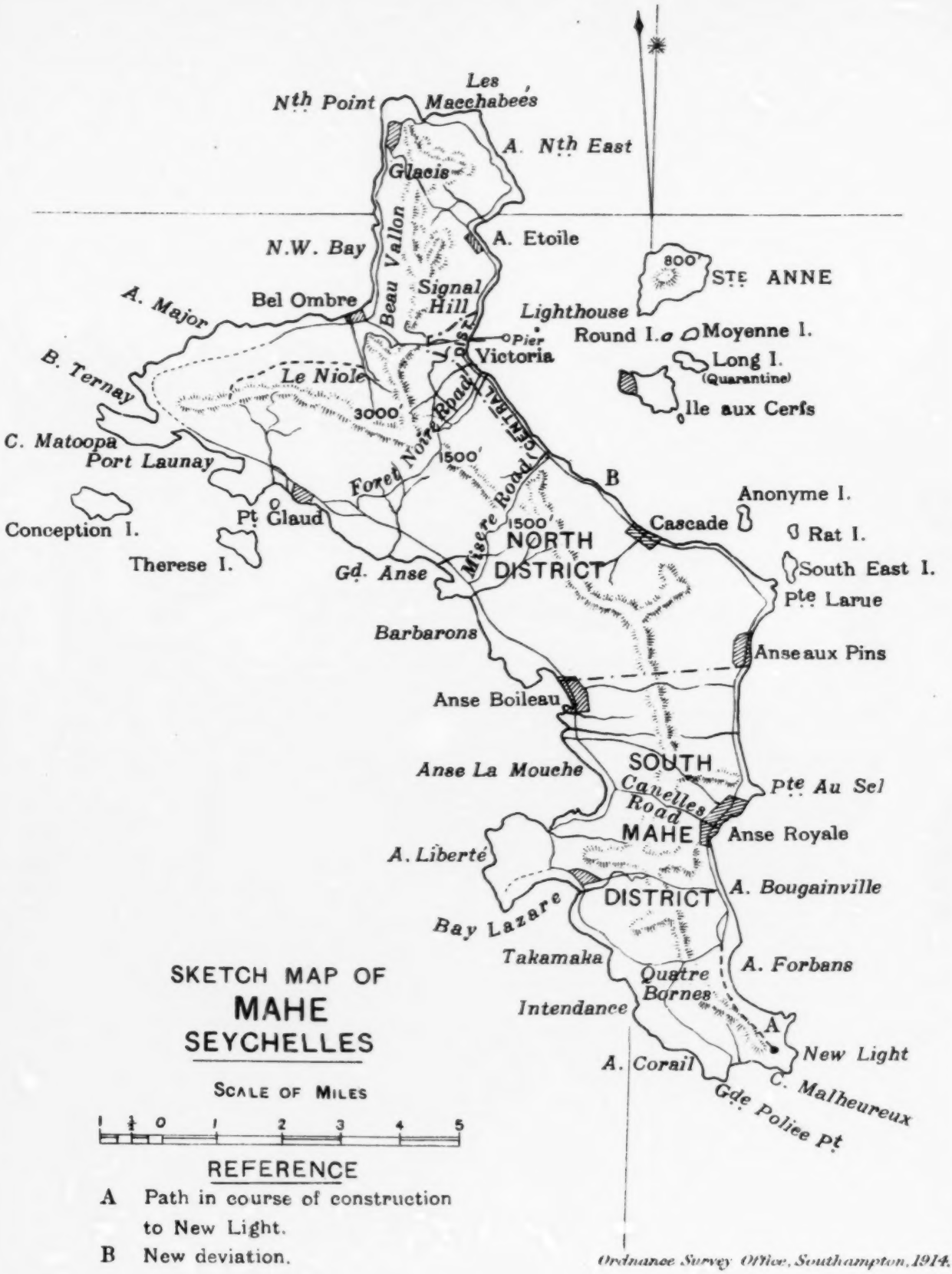
C. R. M. O'BRIEN,

Lt.-Col., Governor.

Government House,

Seychelles,

27th May, 1914.



SKETCH MAP OF

MAHE
SEYCHELLES

SCALE OF MILES

½ 0 1 2 3 4 5

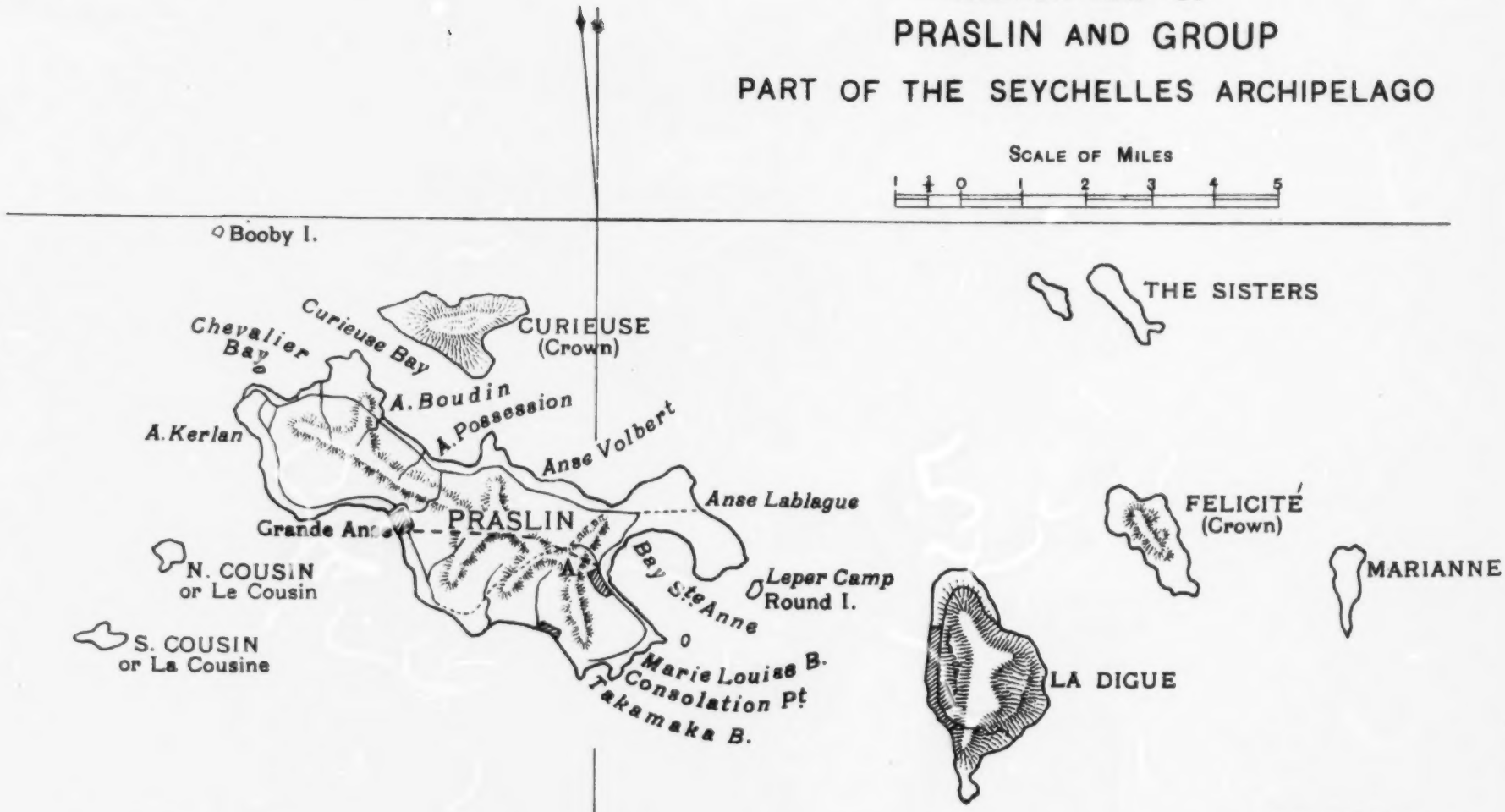
REFERENCE

A Path in course of construction to New Light.

B New deviation.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914.

SKETCH MAP OF
PRASLIN AND GROUP
PART OF THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIPELAGO



C.O. No. 27.

REFERENCE

---A Road begun in 1914.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
768	Fiji	1912
769	Basutoland	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast	1912
771	Ashanti	"
772	Nyasaland	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
774	British Solomon Islands	"
775	Colonial Survey Committee	"
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	"
781	Entomological Research Committee	"
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912-1913
784	British Honduras	1912
785	Northern Nigeria	"
786	Malta	1912-1913
787	Uganda	"
788	Mauritius	1912
789	Straits Settlements	"
790	Trinidad and Tobago	1912-1913
791	East Africa Protectorate	"
792	Grenada	1912
793	Leeward Islands	1912–1913
794	St. Lucia	"
795	St. Vincent	"
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	"
798	Gibraltar	"
799	St. Helena	"
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 846.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 801.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1915.

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SKETCH MAPS.

No. 846.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1913 see No. 801.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
11th May, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of the Colony for the year 1914, together with a report thereon.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
C. R. M. O'BRIEN, Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(C163) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 7.15. B.&?.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1914.

FINANCE.

1. The Revenue collected during the year 1914 amounted to Rs.522,956.24, a falling off of Rs.34,207.60 compared with 1913.

2. The Expenditure amounted to Rs.533,869.31, being Rs.24,820.21 less than the previous year.

3. The transactions for the year resulted in the disbursement of Rs.10,913.07 in excess of the revenue realized.

4. The details of Revenue for 1913–14 are shown below :—

Head of Receipts.	1913. Rs.	1914. Rs.
1. Customs	253,975	253,272
2. Harbour dues	16,941	14,606
3. Licences, Excise, and Internal Revenue	61,800	59,765
4. Taxes	53,052	51,627
5. Fees of Court or Office ..	41,412	44,607
6. Post Office	36,254	13,488
7. Crown Lands	71,059	66,303
8. Interest	15,030	13,655
9. Miscellaneous	7,637	5,628
	Rs.557,163	522,956

5. A decrease is noticeable under every head except "5. Fees of Court or Office." The guano market has been disorganised by the war and this has affected the revenue under "Customs," "Harbour Dues," and "Crown Lands." No shipment of guano to Europe has taken place since August, 1914. The large decrease under "Post Office" is accounted for by the sale of stamps to German dealers having ceased and to the demand for the new stamps issued in 1913 having been met.

6. The following table shows the Expenditure under the various heads in 1913 and 1914 :—

Head of Services.	1913. Rs.	1914. Rs.
1. Charges on account of Public Debt.	14,816	14,816
2. Pensions	15,595	20,269
3. Governor and Legislature ..	24,363	25,494
4. Treasury and Customs ..	21,589	21,140
5. Audit Department	5,999	5,591
6. Port and Marine Department	22,543	19,394
7. Legal Department	49,466	38,171
8. Police Department	39,589	40,573
9. Prison Department	11,736	11,595
10. Medical	55,048	56,419
11. Ecclesiastical	10,125	9,641
12. Education	44,830	42,958
13. Printing	4,722	4,391
14. Post Office	14,431	14,070
15. Transport	3,047	5,550
16. Agriculture and Crown Lands	15,353	12,776
17. Local Board, Central District	21,285	6,479
18. Local Board, South Mahé ..	5,212	4,902
19. Local Board, Praslin and La Digue	4,447	3,968
20. Miscellaneous	72,714	82,863
21. Public Works Department ..	14,917	14,877
22. Public Works Recurrent ..	18,996	33,664
23. Public Works Extraordinary	67,854	44,259
	Rs.558,689	533,869

7. The decrease in expenditure is due to the reorganisation of certain departments, the curtailment of expenditure in certain other departments, and to the fact that all work except of the most urgent nature was suspended on the outbreak of the war. The total for the year includes a heavy payment of Rs.22,500 to Mr. Lanier as compensation, on the reversion of the judgment of 1911, by the Privy Council, and some extraordinary expenditure necessitated by a state of war.

8. A statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years is subjoined :—

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1910	543,650	491,589
1911	545,356	512,167
1912	475,304	580,605
1913	557,163	558,689
1914	522,956	533,869

9. When allowance has been made for the heavy unexpected charges that have fallen on the Colony, the cessation of the export of guano, the irregular shipping opportunities in the early months of the war, and that we are engaged in the greatest war in history, the year under review cannot be considered an unfavourable one.

10. Ordinance No. 6 of 1913, imposing a licence duty on carts, vehicles, bicycles, animals, &c., was brought into force by Proclamation on the 1st January, 1914. The new taxes did not yield a large return. The price of coprah has remained at a high level, but again a disappointing vanilla crop has to be recorded.

Assets and Liabilities.

11. The Assets of the Colony exceeded the Liabilities at the 31st December, 1914, by the sum of Rs.270,584.68.

Public Debt.

12. The Public Debt consists of a loan of originally £20,000 from the Imperial Treasury repayable in thirty annual instalments of capital and interest of Rs.14,816, of which fourteen have been paid, leaving a balance of Rs.189,688.50 to be completed by the year 1929.

Local Boards.

13. There are four Local Boards of Health, viz., Local Board, Central District (including the northern portion of the island of Mahé) and the Local Boards for South Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue Islands respectively.

14. The receipts and disbursements of the various Boards are merged in the General Revenue and Expenditure statements of the Colony.

TRADE.

Imports.

15. The imports for the year are valued at Rs.1,445,648 and their distribution according to countries of origin is shown below :—

From United Kingdom	Rs.473,157
„ British Possessions	657,329
„ Foreign Countries..	315,162
	Rs.1,445,648

being an increase of Rs.165,706 compared with the imports of 1913 and Rs.269,137 greater than in 1912.

16. The more important increases according to countries of origin are :—

From the United Kingdom	Rs.50,402
„ India	44,189
„ Norway	36,347
„ South Africa	28,520
„ French Colonies	18,910

17. The principal countries from which the imports were obtained are :—

India	Rs.544,330
United Kingdom	473,156
France	164,205
Mauritius	70,952

18. The gross value of imports is classified as follows :—

Class I. Live stock, Food, Drinks, and Narcotics	Rs.714,275
Class II. Raw materials other than textile or metal	75,884
Class III. Manufactured articles, textile ..	215,233
„ Manufactured articles, metal ..	159,588
„ Manufactured articles, other than textile or metal	200,270
Class IV. Bullion and Specie	80,398
	Rs.1,445,648

19. The value of imports from Germany, which ceased on the outbreak of the war, was Rs.9,177, compared with Rs.11,662 in 1913. The principal articles imported from Germany were : beer, chemicals, condensed milk, bicycles, cutlery, enamel and iron ware, bricks, eternit sheets, glassware, and packing paper.

EXPORTS.

20. The total value of the exports amounted to Rs.2,115,903, a decrease of Rs.368,299 compared with the previous year.

21. The distribution of the exports was as follows :—

	Rs.
To United Kingdom	485,872
„ British Possessions	147,055
„ Foreign Countries	1,482,976
	Rs.2,115,903

22. The principal commodities in which there are increases are :— coconuts, coprah (Rs.105,084), coconut oil (Rs.9,850), vanilla (Rs.29,883), essential oils (Rs.18,843), calipee, and shark fins. The export of essential oils has made a notable advance, viz. : 1912, 22 hectolitres ; 1913, 41 hectolitres ; 1914, 85 hectolitres.

23. The noteworthy decreases are shown against the following :— guano (Rs.483,390) ; cinnamon bark, coco de mer, whale oil, rubber, and soap.

24. The subjoined table gives the value of the export of our staple articles, coprah and vanilla, during the last five years :—

	Coprah. Rs.	Vanilla. Rs.
1910	862,857	450,239
1911	771,694	223,198
1912	801,196	151,331
1913	1,080,736	101,847
1914	1,185,820	131,730

25. The export of coprah is steadily increasing. The vanilla crop in 1914 was a little better than that of 1913, but the promise for the present year is not encouraging, while the price and demand have gone very flat in consequence of the war.

26. The value of goods shipped to Germany and German colonies during the first seven months of 1914 was Rs.126,500, against Rs.116,988 in 1913. The principal exports to Germany were guano, cinnamon bark, essential oils, calipee, caret shell, and to German colonies, soap.

MANUFACTURES, FISHERIES, AND AGRICULTURE.

Manufactures.

27. Messrs. Pare, Newsam & Pare's workshop has done good work during the year. Among other repairs effected was the following : The s.s. "Gujarat," of the Indian-African line, arrived at Mahé on the 28th March, 1914, having a cracked high-pressure steam chest The leakage of steam was so great that, although the boilers were making all steam possible, the engines could not do more than 20 revolutions per minute. On examination, the crack was found to be 8 feet long, the top of the steam chest being almost detached. One-inch steel plates were bolted inside the steam chest and 5 gun-metal castings (one of which weighed 412 lbs.) were fitted to completely envelop the top and sides of the steam chest and bolted securely to the sound walls of the cylinder casting. Before bolting the gun-metal castings in place the crack was grooved and undercut and then filled in with white metal. The above repairs enabled the "Gujarat" to proceed to Colombo.

Fisheries.

28. The St. Abbs Whaling Company erected a large up-to-date factory, which commenced work in October. Two small steamers are used for whaling. The number of whales captured was 46, of which nearly all were sperm whales.

The fishing grounds are between Denis and Bird Islands. In July and October sperm whales were found in considerable numbers and observations made in December would encourage the belief that the breeding season commences about the end of the year.

29. The whales captured are towed ashore to the factory, where the blubber is dealt with and the oil extracted. The remains of the whale are then cut up and boiled down, undergoing various processes, and finally turned into whale manure.

30. Owing to the war and to the state of the market, no whale oil was exported, but a considerable quantity was ready and awaiting shipment at the close of the year.

31. The number of licences granted to fish whales has been limited to two. The second licence has been issued to the Durban Whaling Company; this Company has not, so far, commenced operations in the waters of the Colony.

32. Legislation regarding whale fishery was amended and completed during the year.

AGRICULTURE.

33. The coconut crop of the Colony is increasing yearly. The gathered crop in 1914 is estimated at 31,000,000 nuts, being 5,000,000 nuts more than in 1913. This increase bears testimony to the greater attention that is paid by planters to their coconut plantations. The Curator of the Botanic Station is of the opinion that a yearly increase will appear for a long time, as during the last five years nearly 100,000 more coconut trees have been planted.

34. The average price paid for nuts in Mahé during 1914 fell from Rs.49 to Rs.41 per thousand: the minimum price reached was Rs.25 in the early days of the war. The prices, however, have now become normal. The large demand for coprah at present in England should create a wider opening for this product.

35. 25,805,780 nuts were converted into coprah; 795,190 into oil, and 346,612 into soap.

36. The quantity of vanilla exported during the year amounted to about 10 tons, being the seventh crop in succession since 1907 that has been below the average of previous years. This is a heavy blow to the vanilla planters, especially the small moitie system planters, who have given up planting vanilla in many localities and replaced it by the culture of the banana which is less profitable, but gives a more regular crop. The owners of large estates, on the other hand, have taken up vanilla cultivation on a larger scale since the succession of wetter seasons and nearly all the previous plantations, which had been destroyed by seven years of drought, have been replanted. The new plantations look promising and a larger crop is anxiously awaited.

37. The rainfall of the year was very heavy. The weather was beneficial to coconuts and rubber, but prejudicial to vanilla. Until the end of June the weather had been very favourable for the growth of vanilla, but July was too wet and the rainfall was again very high

in September. August was the only month during which a small rainfall favoured the flowering, but the spell of dry weather was too short and the rainfall preceding and succeeding it was too heavy to allow the vines to flower under favourable conditions. The above demonstrates how difficult it is for vanilla to flower in wet countries like Seychelles and the variable character of the return.

38. A series of experimental plots for the manuring of vanilla in different aspects and conditions as to soil and shade were set out in the Botanic Station during the year. Costly manures have been excluded. Further experiments are in progress and it is hoped they may assist planters in deciding on simple means of improved culture of their vines.

39. The other commodities grown in the Colony are of minor importance. The export of essential oils distilled from lemon grass, cloves, &c., shows a large increase in value, having quadrupled in the past three years.

Crown Lands.

40. The work of reafforestation of the central plateau of Mahé has made steady progress, a large number of plants and trees having been planted out.

41. There was no grant of Crown lands during the year.

42. Morne Blanc, a private property, was taken over by the Government to cover the interest and principal of an advance made to the owner under the "Loans to Planters Ordinance."

SHIPPING.

43. The following statement gives the number of vessels which have called at Mahé during the last five years.

Year.	Steamers.	Sailing vessels.	Total.
1910	82	11	93
1911	89	7	96
1912	77	7	84
1913	70	5	75
1914	61	6	67

44. The total tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared at Port Victoria, Seychelles, was 248,702 tons, compared with 323,287 tons in 1913.

45. The nationality of the steamers which entered the port is as follows:—

British	28
French	26
German	3
Norwegian	4
	61

46. The steam launch "Alexandra" has been extensively repaired and is now making the usual weekly voyages to Praslin and the neighbouring islands. During the time she was being repaired the cutter "Wave," with motor auxiliary, performed a weekly service to Praslin. The "Wave" made 74 voyages and conveyed 355 passengers.

47. The lighthouses and motor launches used for harbour work were kept in a good state of preservation throughout the year.

LEGISLATION.

48. Twenty Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council during the year, the most important being:—

No. 6 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Police Court of Seychelles."

No. 8 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to provide for a scale of fees in the Supreme Court (Civil side)."

No. 9 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to amend and consolidate certain Ordinances relating to the office of Registrar of the Supreme Court of Seychelles."

No. 11 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to amend the Whale Fishery Ordinance 1913."

No. 12 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to prohibit the carrying on of trade with the King's enemy."

No. 13 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to regulate the exportation of arms, ammunition and military and naval stores."

No. 14 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to regulate a provisional Paper Currency in the Colony."

No. 15 of 1914.—"An Ordinance to regulate the sale of certain foodstuffs."

No. 20 of 1914.—"An Ordinance relating to trading with the enemy."

Ordinances Nos. 12, 13, 14 and 15 are concerned with measures that were taken on the outbreak of the war.

EDUCATION.

49. The number of pupils attending the schools of the Colony was 2,674, a decrease of 18 compared with 1913. This number represents just over 50 per cent. of the total children of school age. The average attendance was 1,951, being 72 per cent. of the total number on the roll of the schools. It is difficult to create any enthusiasm as regards

education in the minds of the creole population. The country is mountainous and distances to be traversed to school are sometimes considerable, and in consequence the percentage of attendance remains low.

50. The number of Grant-in-Aid schools was 24; 20 of these are Roman Catholic schools, attended by 1,800 children, average attendance 1,325. The remaining four are Church of England Schools, attended by 215 children, average attendance 176. Compared with 1913 the average attendance in the Roman Catholic schools shows a decrease of 41 and in the Church of England schools an increase of 12. 1,436 pupils from the Grant-in-Aid schools were presented for examination, compared with 1,558 in 1913, being 68 per cent. of the number on the roll, compared with 78·7 per cent. in 1913. Of the pupils examined, the number returned by the examiner as "below standard" was 470, compared with 442 in 1913.

51. The number of pupils on the roll of the King's College and Victoria School was 75, compared with 76 in 1913. In the Government Free School there were 102 pupils, compared with 89 in the previous year. The average attendance in the King's College was 63 and in the Free School 76.

52. The School House was continued during the year, but, owing to the departure in December of the Principal for service at the front and the small number of boarders, it was decided to close the establishment at the end of the year.

53. The other secondary schools of the Colony are the St. Louis College, managed by the Marist Brothers, and the St. Joseph's Convent, managed by the Sisters of the order of St. Joseph de Cluny. Both schools do useful work.

54. Forty-one pupils of the Convent School were examined by the Government Inspector under the regulations governing the higher education of girls. The results of the examination were satisfactory and great improvement was noticed. Ten pupils were given Government scholarships entitling them to board and tuition at the Convent School.

55. No Cambridge local examinations were held in 1914, owing to the state of war.

56. There were at the close of the year two Seychelles Laureates enjoying Government scholarships in the United Kingdom, both of whom are studying medicine. One laureate graduated B.L. at Edinburgh University during the year and is now practising as a solicitor in Edinburgh, another laureate threw up his scholarship and returned to the Colony.

57. The total expenditure on Education during 1914 was Rs.42,958.

58. Mr. Mackay, Principal of the King's College and Inspector of Schools, after eleven years' good work left the Colony on promotion to Mauritius in April. He was succeeded by Mr. D. W. McLeod, the second master of the King's College.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospital and Dispensaries.

Victoria Hospital.

59. The total number of in-patients treated in the Victoria Hospital was 528, being 7 less than in 1913. There were 28 deaths. A useful addition was made in the hospital by the erection of new upstairs wards which provide accommodation for two first-class and one second-class patient respectively.

Dispensaries.

60. 1,965 persons received treatment at the Government dispensaries, of whom 1,171 attended at the Victoria Dispensary. Structural improvements were made in the Government Pharmacy which allows sufficient space for consulting room, Chief Medical Officer's office, and store rooms.

Principal Diseases.

61. There was no epidemic during the year. Most excellent results continue to be obtained from the use of emetine in the treatment of dysentery. Two cases of beriberi were treated at the hospital. Venereal diseases and ankylostomiasis are very prevalent, but steps have been taken which, it is hoped, will mitigate the first evil. The Colony has been promised the visit of an expert, the expenses of whom will be generously borne by the International Health Commission, who will advise on measures to be taken to eradicate and prevent the spread of ankylostomiasis. Some of the outlying islands are still affected by chiggers, and, in spite of precautions taken, a few cases have appeared in Mahé, but the Chief Medical Officer does not consider there is any fear of the pest spreading.

Sanitation.

62. The general sanitary condition of the Colony was satisfactory. The campaign against rats was continued in the town of Victoria with success, 2,627 rats being accounted for.

Leper Asylum.

63. There were seven patients remaining in the Leper Asylum at the end of the year. Two patients died during 1914.

Pauper Camp.

64. The Pauper Camp and the Leper Asylum are situated on Round Island, Praslin, and are under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of the Praslin District. There were 24 inmates in the camp at the close of the year.

Lunatic Asylum.

65. The daily average number of patients in the Lunatic Asylum, South Mahé, was 24. The daily cost of maintenance works out at 40 cents per head. Eight new patients were admitted during the year, five males and three females. Two female patients were discharged as cured. One male and two female patients died. There has been no case of second admission. The number of patients remaining in the Asylum at the close of the year was 25.

Maternity Home.

66. Excellent work has been accomplished at the Maternity Home; the total number of cases admitted was 194, and the number of babies born was 161.

67. There have been some changes in the medical staff during the year. One medical officer resigned and another has been allowed to proceed to East Africa for service in the field. A medical officer from Mauritius has been appointed on probation to fill one of the above vacancies.

Savings Bank.

68. The balance remaining to the credit of depositors at the close of the year was Rs.57,155, a decrease of Rs.19,964 compared with the balance on 31st December, 1913. This decrease is not large when it is considered that large withdrawals were made at the commencement of the war. The Savings Bank funds are invested in Government securities, the revenue derived from interest on investments was Rs.1,994, and the sum of Rs.1,524 was credited to depositors as interest accrued. The Savings Bank comprises the Central Savings Bank in Victoria and a branch bank at Praslin.

JUDICIAL.

69. During the year 377 civil cases were entered in the Supreme Court, compared with 685 in 1913. The large difference is mainly due to the smaller number of cases filed for the recovery of taxes. In 1913, 411 tax cases were entered and 149 only in 1914. Deducting tax cases there were 274 cases in 1913 and 228 in 1914. The total of civil cases in the last five years reads as follows :—

1910	302
1911	356
1912	355
1913	685
1914	377

70. On the criminal side 1,155 cases and 1,491 persons were tried in the Courts of the Colony. This includes stipendiary cases of a quasi-criminal nature. The criminal cases proper were distributed as follows :—

	No. of Cases.	No. of persons charged.
In the Supreme Court	185	229
,, Police Court	686	896
,, Court of J.P., South Mahé	114	140
,, Court of J.P., Praslin ..	131	185

71. Cases of assault, disturbance of the public peace, drunkenness, abusive language, and plundering account for nearly five-sixths of the total number of cases. There was an absence of serious crime, only one case of manslaughter having been tried.

72. Mr. A. K. Young who had been Chief Justice since 1909, left the Colony in April, 1914, on appointment to the post of Attorney-General of Fiji. He was succeeded by Mr. E. R. Logan, on the 17th September. During the period of vacancy Mr. R. M. D'Unienville, Legal Adviser, acted as Chief Justice.

Police Force.

73. There has been no change in the strength of the Police Force, which is divided between 16 stations.

74. The number of offences of all descriptions reported to the Police during the year was 2,118, arising out of which 1,264 persons were apprehended or charged to appear before the Courts. The value of property alleged to have been stolen was Rs.673, of which Rs.334 was recovered by the police. The amount of fines imposed by the Courts as the result of police prosecutions was Rs.8,388.

Prisons.

75. The commitments to prison during the year were 528 men and 97 women, a decrease of 88 men and 90 women compared with 1913. Of the above, 395 men and 76 women were imprisoned for non-payment of fines, 133 men and 21 women for offences under the Penal Code. The daily average in the prison was 48 men and 4 women. 17 men were admitted to hospital; the daily average on the sick list was 1. No death or escape occurred during the year and there was no case of corporal punishment.

76. The prisoners are employed on breaking stones, beating coconut fibre, mat making, printing, carpentering, tinsmithing, bookbinding, and do much useful work for the Government.

77. The sanitary condition of the prison was satisfactory throughout the year.

78. The total cost of the prison amounted to Rs.11,535. The revenue derived from prison labour was Rs.248.

VITAL STATISTICS.

79. The population of the Colony at the close of the year is calculated to have numbered 24,141 persons, of whom 12,257 were males and 11,884 females, showing an increase over the previous year of 364 souls, of whom 218 are males and 146 females.

80. The total number of births was 709, 345 males and 364 females, a decrease of 69 compared with 1913. This decrease is made up of 41 males and 28 females. Of the total number 255 were illegitimate births, 47 of whom have been acknowledged by their natural fathers. The twin births were 12; 6 being males and 6 females. The birth rate per thousand was 29·66. The number of still births registered was 65.

81. The deaths numbered 372 persons, of whom 175 were males and 197 females, against 363 deaths (190 males and 173 females) in 1913. The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 61, a drop of 5 from the previous year. The death rate per thousand was 15·36. The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 337. The population, notwithstanding some slight migrations to Madagascar, the French guano islands, and the east coast of Africa, is steadily increasing.

82. One hundred and seven marriages were celebrated during the year, being a decrease of 15 compared with 1913.

Climate.

83. The total rainfall for the year was 109·07 inches, compared with 67·71 inches in 1913. This large difference demonstrates the variable character of Seychelles weather conditions. Rain fell on 191 days. The heaviest fall was on the 6th October, when 5·6 inches were registered. August was the driest and March the wettest month.

84. The mean temperature was 80·8 compared with 79·8 in 1913. The range was from 72·9 on the 19th March to 88·9 on the 8th May.

85. The south-east monsoon commenced in the middle of May and ended towards the middle of October. The highest velocity recorded was on the 24th August, when it reached 22·6 miles per hour.

86. The following is the meteorological return for the year:—

Month.	Mean of Temperature		Rainfall.			
	Min.	Max.	Total.	Max.	Date.	Number of days on which rain fell.
			ins.	ins.		
January	77·6	83·7	14·99	4·86	16th	16
February	77·9	83·6	9·85	2·50	1st	12
March	78·2	84·4	16·91	4·90	16th	17
April	77·8	85·6	12·48	2·44	5th	19
May	78·8	86·1	9·46	2·86	31st	16
June	79·1	84·5	2·45	0·46	21st	16
July	76·9	82·1	1·05	0·17	18th	16
August	76·6	81·4	0·75	0·17	21st	9
September	77·2	82·3	10·95	3·54	13th	22
October	77·9	84·0	10·88	5·68	6th	17
November	77·1	83·7	8·05	1·96	27th	19
December	76·7	83·7	11·25	3·34	31st	12
Mean ..	77·6	84·0	109·07			191

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

87. The mail service performed by the Messageries Maritimes Company was considerably affected during the first months of the war, but later returned to the normal. The British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer from Bombay omitted her call at Seychelles on her passage from Bombay on one or two occasions, but this was compensated for by calls on her way from East African ports to Bombay. The Scandinavian East African line made its first appearance towards the end of the year, but the service cannot yet be considered regular. The venture mentioned in last year's report of connecting Seychelles with England via Colombo by the Bibby Line has fallen through, owing to the failure of the connecting service. Only one ship was put on the route and she invariably broke down on the journey, so her movements were distinctly erratic.

88. The revenue of the Post Office fell from Rs. 36,254 in 1913 to Rs. 13,488; the cause of this decrease has already been explained under "Financial."

89. The value of postal orders issued shows the large advance of Rs. 7,000 in 1914 against Rs. 4,208 in 1913. The money order service as regards issues remained more or less stationary; the money orders from outside cashed at the Seychelles Post Office amounted to Rs. 8,570, against Rs. 19,451 in 1913, a very large decrease. The number of parcels by parcels post dealt with shows a marked decrease compared with 1913, due, no doubt, to smaller importation of luxuries. The number of letters and postcards from outside the Colony received was 73,000, against 82,000 in 1913, and the number despatched was 77,000, against 87,000 in 1913. On the whole there was a decrease in postal business during the year.

Telegraph and Telephone.

90. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a station in Mahé. The Colony was without telegraphic communication with the world from the 19th to the 28th August, due to the breaking, through natural causes, of both cables connecting Seychelles.

91. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Public Works.

92. The record of new works is not large, as all works of an extraordinary character were suspended on the outbreak of the war. The completion of the Rest House and of the increased accommodation in the Victoria Hospital have resulted in useful additions to the Government institutions in Mahé. Government House is now well equipped with electric light and new furniture. The adjoining grounds have been well laid out and are much admired. The provision of a

second quarantine station at Long Island will prove a great convenience and can be utilised as an isolated station for infectious diseases on emergency. A cottage hospital has been built on the island of Praslin, which should be, when opened, a great boon to the inhabitants of that island. Owing to lack of funds this year it has not been found possible to equip the hospital to receive patients. A new store for the storage of powder and petrol was built during the year.

93. As regards road work, the deviation of the Victoria to Anse Royale road at the third mile is a useful improvement. The road is taken round the coast on the level and entirely avoids the former dangerous ascent. The work of constructing the Midlands road, which will give good means of communication between the villages of Bay St. Anne and Grand Anse, in Praslin, was commenced. This road will traverse the centre of the island of Praslin. Half-a-mile of a road leading from the Niol to Port Glaud was made and a bridge erected over the Niol River. Several of the existing bridges and roads of the Colony were repaired.

94. The survey of Praslin progressed considerably during the year, and it is hoped that another month's work will bring it to completion.

Outlying Islands.

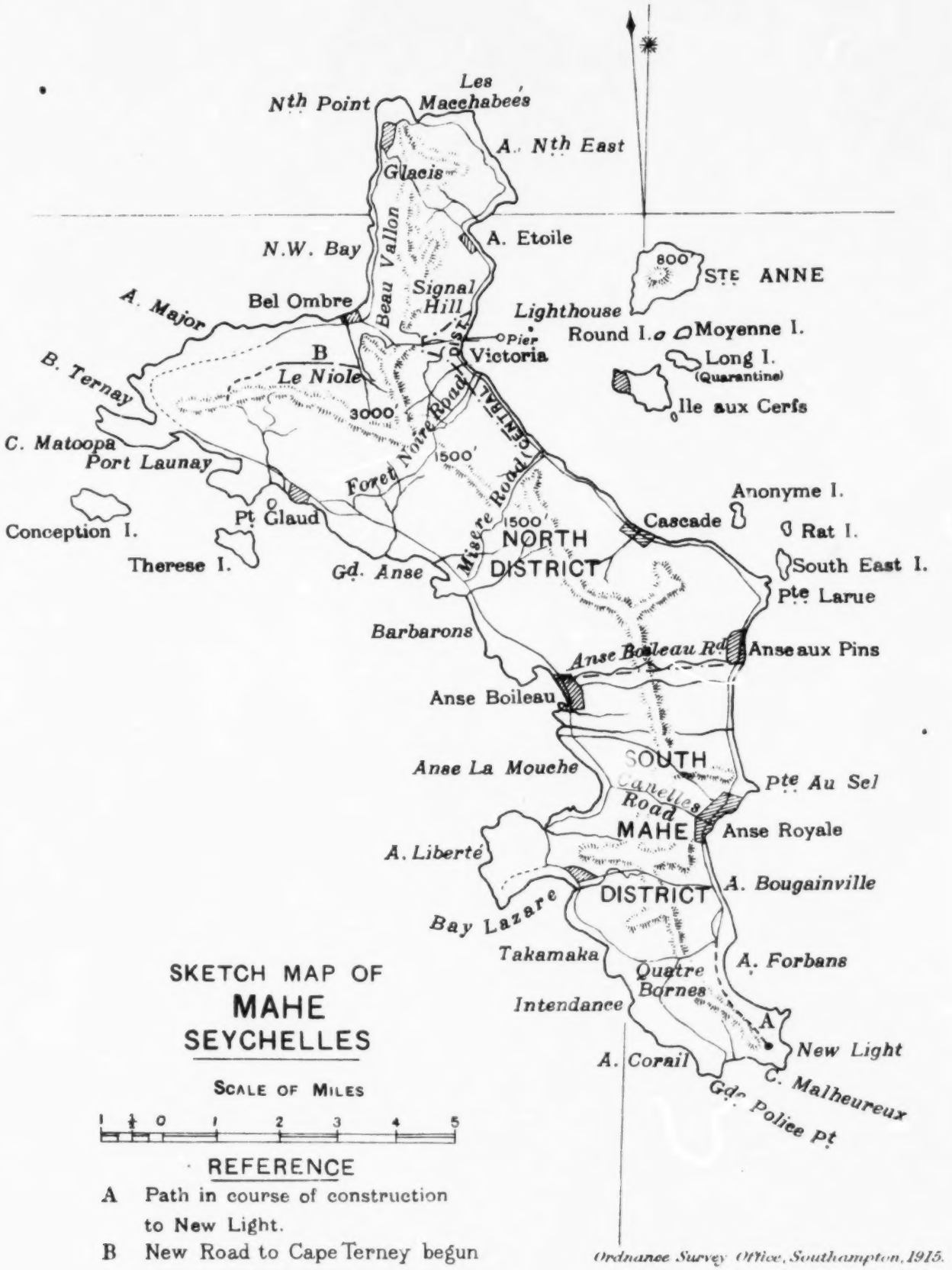
95. Denis, Assumption, Aldabra, Alphonse, Marie Louise, and Coetivy Islands were visited during the year.

96. It may be interesting to record that on the 1st September the German cruiser "Konigsberg" anchored off Aldabra and coaled from a collier (the D.O.A.L. s.s. Somali) which was in attendance, and left the same day. The manager was unaware of the outbreak of hostilities and on calling on the vessel was told to "clear off" as there was an epidemic of small-pox on board. The "Konigsberg" crew were noticed to keep a sharp look-out and she left as early as possible.

General.

97. 1914 will chiefly be remembered as the year of the outbreak of the greatest war in history. Although Seychelles is a small community, the people take the keenest interest in the doings of our Army and Navy and of our Allies. The funds of the Colony have not admitted of any subscription to the general expenses of the war. The sympathy of the people has been shown by the large number of articles made for the Red Cross Society and the considerable funds collected for division between the branches of the above Society in England and France. Further, there have been large donations to the H.R.H. the Prince of Wales's Fund, the St. John's Ambulance, the Purple Cross, the Tablet Fund for relief of the Belgians, and to other special funds. The response of all classes, considering the general standard of means, has been enthusiastic and generous.

98. The Colony was honoured in December with a visit for a fortnight of 24 officers and 74 non-commissioned officers of the French Colonial Army, who were by orders of the Governor of Madagascar landed at Mahé while on passage from Madagascar to France, having been recalled to Madagascar for a special purpose. The officers were entertained by the leading inhabitants, and the non-commissioned officers were



SKETCH MAP OF

MAHE
SEYCHELLES

SCALE OF MILES

1 ½ 0 1 2 3 4 5

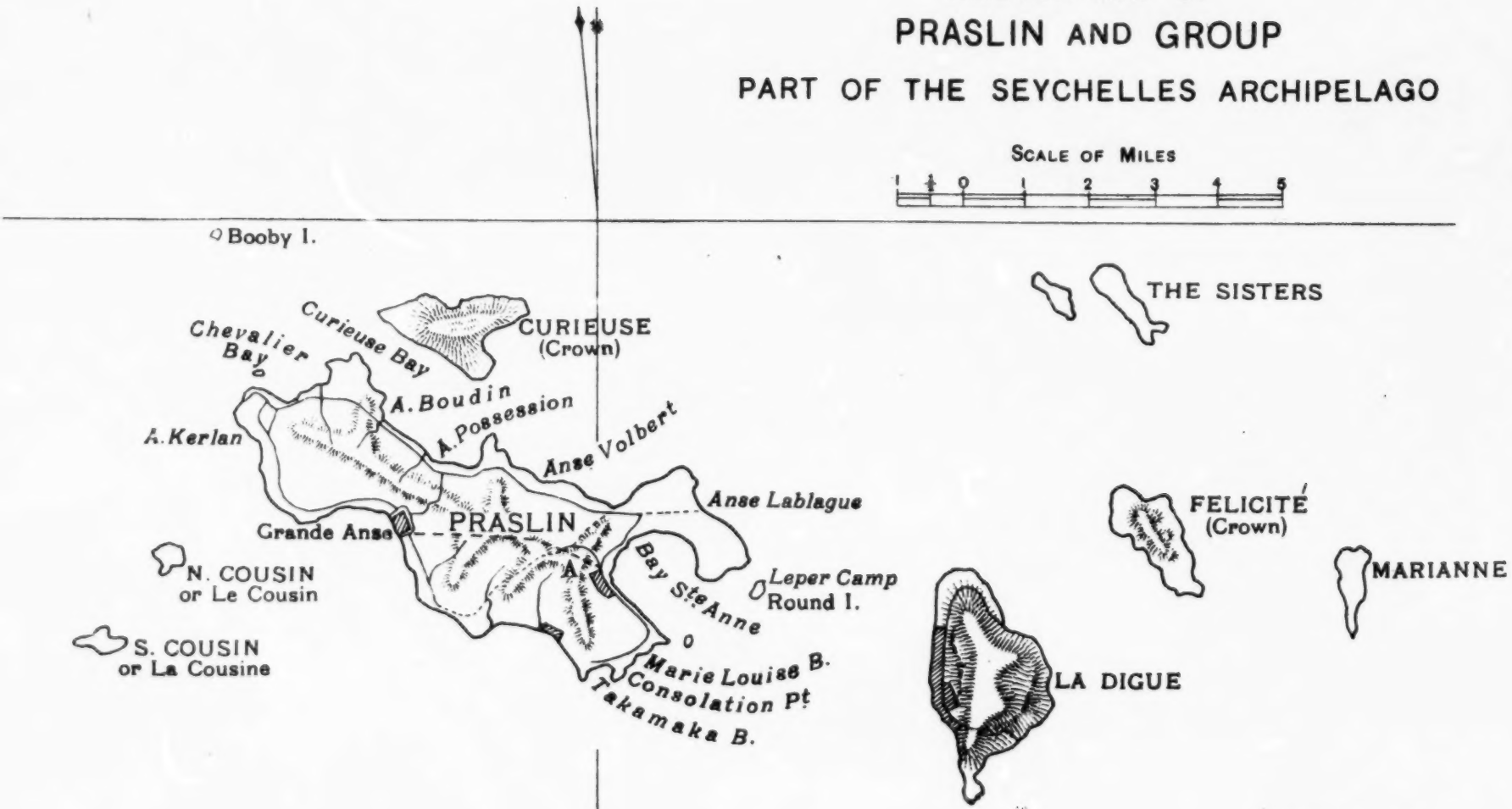
REFERENCE

A Path in course of construction to New Light.

B New Road to Cape Terney begun in 1914 and temporarily discontinued.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1915.

SKETCH MAP OF
PRASLIN AND GROUP
PART OF THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIPELAGO



C.O. No. 27.

REFERENCE

-----A Road begun in 1914 and temporarily discontinued.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1915.

the guests of the Colony. The visit was a clear indication of the *Entente* and the occasion of much enthusiasm among the inhabitants, many of whom are naturally proud of their French descent. The Commanding Officer of the detachment prior to his departure presented, the Governor on behalf of the detachment, with a cheque for £162 to be devoted for the exclusive use of British sick and wounded soldiers, as a mark of their admiration for the British soldiers in the field. The proceeds of this cheque have been placed to the credit of the St. John's Ambulance Society. The correct and dignified behaviour of all ranks during their stay was much commented on by all classes.

99. The year gave every promise of being an exceptionally favourable one. During the first seven months the returns of imports and exports remained at a high level. The outbreak of war, however, resulted in trade being much disorganised, chiefly on account of (*a*) the curtailment of our trade with France, (*b*) the dislocation of the steamer service during the first two months of the war, and (*c*) the consequent scarcity of money resulting from inability to export commodities. On the stoppage of the export of coprah planters reduced their labour staff, with the result that many labourers were thrown out of employment. During the last three months of the year, owing to the supremacy of our Navy, the acute conditions felt at the beginning of the war became easier, planters employed the full amount of labour, and trade gradually returned to normal conditions. Considering all circumstances, the Colony has much to be thankful for that trade has not been more seriously affected. It is interesting to record that the revenue derived from Customs compares not unfavourably with the amount collected in 1913, the difference being only Rs. 700. The export of coprah is increasing steadily, and when fortune and weather favour a good vanilla crop the Seychelles may be a prosperous small Colony. The most serious outlook is the practical closing down of the guano industry, due principally to the difficulty in obtaining freight.

100. All hearts beat in fervent loyalty to our Sovereign and in staunch faith in the justice of our cause and reliance in our Army and Navy, and in the ultimate success of our Allies and our Empire.

C. R. M. O'BRIEN, Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

Government House,
Mahé, Seychelles,
30th April, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	„
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	„
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	„
820	Jamaica	„
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	„
823	Zanzibar	„
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	„
827	British Honduras	„
828	Colonial Survey Committee	1913–1914
829	Tongan Islands Protectorate	„
830	Swaziland	„
831	Uganda	„
832	Nyasaland	„
833	British Guiana	„
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	„
837	Somaliland	„
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East African Protectorate	„
841	Leeward Islands	„
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	„
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
845	Weihaiwei	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 897.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 846.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1916.

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Sketch maps will be found in the previous Report, No. 846: [Cd. 7622—37.]

No. 897.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 846.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
31st May, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Blue Book of Seychelles for the year 1915.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
C. R. M. O'BRIEN, Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1915.

FINANCE.

1. The Revenue for the year 1915 was Rs.381,290, being Rs.141,666 less than in 1914.

2. The Expenditure amounted to Rs.467,950, a decrease of Rs.65,919 compared with 1914.

3. The Expenditure exceeded the Revenue by the sum of Rs.86,660.

4. All the "Heads of Revenue," with the exception of "Taxes," show a decrease, and that this head should show a small increase would appear to indicate there was no real lack of money among the population. The large decrease under "Crown Lands" is due to the almost total cessation of the export of guano owing to the prevailing high rate of freights and the difficulty of obtaining freight vessels. The heavy fall under "Customs" is due partly to the same cause, and also in some measure to a boycott of merchants, who refused to clear from bond or import goods on which the Customs Duties were raised in November, 1915, to provide extra revenue for the current year. The loss to revenue in 1915 resulting from the above action of the merchants was at least Rs.20,000. This boycott continued until 1st May, 1916, when a compromise was arranged.

5. The strictest economy in expenditure has been exercised throughout the year. All Public Works Extraordinary, except those of an urgent nature, were discontinued and several vacant appointments were left in abeyance.

6. The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue. Rs.	Expenditure. Rs.
1911	545,356	512,167
1912	475,304	580,605
1913	557,163	558,689
1914	522,956	533,869
1915	381,290	467,950

7. The decrease in revenue due to a full year of war and the causes already alluded to has been heavy.

8. The following steps have been taken to collect extra revenue in 1916:—

(1) The Customs duties on spirits, tobacco, matches, beer, bacon and hams, butter and margarine, have been increased and a surcharge duty of ten per cent. ad valorem has been imposed on all importations with the exception of goods the rates of duty on which are governed by the Anglo-French Convention of 1902.

(2) The licences payable by merchants, retailers of spirits, &c., have been increased.

(3) An export duty, on a sliding scale, has been imposed on coprah, coconuts, and its by-products, and came into operation on 1st April, 1916.

(4) A tax of Rs.250 per arpent per annum on sugar-cane cultivations comes into force on the 1st June, 1916. It may be mentioned sugar canes are grown solely for the purpose of manufacturing "bacca" (the juice of the sugar cane fermented or otherwise), which is the favourite beverage of the lower classes.

9. It is hoped that the increased taxation detailed above, with care in handling expenditure, will result in the revenue balancing the expenditure for the current year, but the loss to revenue on account of the boycott of merchants already referred to, which continued until the end of April, will be heavy, and the financial position will require to be reviewed at a later date this year.

Assets and Liabilities.

10. The Assets exceeded the Liabilities by Rs.183,925 on the 31st December, 1915, The sum of Rs.120,033 is invested by the Crown Agents on account of the General Revenue of the Colony and Rs. 74,228 is invested locally under the "Loans to Planters" Ordinance.

Local Boards.

11. The accounts of the four Local Boards of Health are merged in the General Revenue and Expenditure statements of the Colony.

TRADE.

IMPORTS.

12. The value of the imports during 1915 was Rs.1,107,490, compared with Rs.1,445,648 in 1914. The countries of origin were :

United Kingdom	Rs.276,847
British Possessions	588,196
Foreign Countries	242,447
	Rs.1,107,490

13. The imports from the United Kingdom have declined Rs. 196,310 compared with the figures for the previous year, but exceed the total value of imports from foreign countries by Rs.34,400. The imports from British possessions and foreign countries also show a decrease of Rs. 69,133 and Rs.72,715 respectively, compared with 1914.

14. The principal countries from which the imports were obtained are :—

India	Rs.500,461
United Kingdom	276,847
France	122,717
Mauritius	75,424
French Colonies	56,127

15. The value of the imports is classified below :—

Class I.	Live stock, Food, Drinks, and Narcotics	Rs.600,458
Class II.	Raw materials other than textile or metal	47,726
Class III.	Manufactured articles, textile ..	195,609
„	Manufactured articles, metal ..	83,311
„	Manufactured articles, other than textile or metal	150,386
Class IV.	Bullion and Specie	30,000
		Rs.1,107,490

EXPORTS.

16. The exports for the year under review were valued at Rs.1,409,966, being a decrease of Rs.705,937 compared with the exports of the year 1914.

17. The distribution of exports was as follows:—

United Kingdom	Rs.241,052
British Possessions	124,755
Foreign Countries	1,044,159
	Rs.1,409,966

18. The export of the following commodities shows increases:—Essential oils, whale oil, soap, and salted fish. The value of essential oils exported during 1915 was Rs.42,115, against Rs.16,482 in 1913. The value of the export of this product has increased sevenfold in the past three years. The profits are not large, but it results in the employment of many persons.

19. Coprah, for the first time in the history of the Colony, shows a falling off of 772 tons and in value of Rs.291,571. Vanilla was again disappointing, only 2½ tons being exported, valued at Rs.26,245.

20. The comparative table of the value of the export of the staple industries of the Colony, coprah and vanilla, during the last five years, is appended:—

	Coprah. Rs.	Vanilla. Rs.
1911	771,694	223,198
1912	801,196	151,331
1913	1,080,736	101,847
1914	1,185,820	131,730
1915	894,249	26,245

21. The price of coprah was high throughout the year; it averaged about £26 and reached £30 per ton in December. Thanks to the subsidy paid to the Messageries Maritimes Steamship Company, planters were able to ship their coprah to the European markets at very little increase in freight charges as compared with pre-war rates and obtain the high prices ruling in Europe.

FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE.

Fisheries.

22. The St. Abbs Whaling Company, Ltd., met with financial difficulties owing to the War and suspended operations in August, 1915. The affairs of the Company are now in the hands of a liquidator appointed by the Court. The factory and complete reduction plant for the treatment of whale oil and its by-products remain standing with the hope of a new Company being started in more propitious times.

23. Whale oil, prepared during 1914, to the value of Rs.103,636 and whale guano to the value of Rs.11,292, were exported during the year.

24. There is every indication that there is no scarcity of whales in our waters, and a company with sufficient funds and good management should have every chance of success.

AGRICULTURE.

25. The coconut crop of 1915 showed a falling off; 25,759,942, against 31,120,685 nuts in 1914. The curator of the botanic station reports that this reduction was greater on worn-out estates, and negligible on estates on which the soil is rich, and is not of opinion that external factors such as climate, insect pests, or excessive rains, have affected this shortage of crop, but thinks that it is due to "a period of underbearing" following a period of overbearing.

26. The amount of vanilla exported amounted to 2½ tons, and is the lowest on record since 1895. No good crop has been obtained for the last eight years.

27. A series of experimental plots for the manuring of vanilla by different processes, which were set out in the Botanic Station, are giving interesting results.

28. It is satisfactory to note that the industry of distilling essential oils is now firmly established. The number of stills at work and in course of erection during 1915 was 12. The value of the exports, Rs.41,000, shows that it is by no means a negligible industry. The export has increased seven fold in the past three years.

29. It is estimated that there are about 184,000 rubber trees planted out in the Colony, and about half of this number have reached the tappable size.

30. No grant of Crown lands was made during the year.

SHIPPING.

31. The total tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared at Port Victoria was 231,541 tons in 1915. In 1914 the total tonnage was 248,702.

32. The nationality of the steamers which entered the port in 1915 is as follows:—

British	23
French	25
Norwegian	1
Russian	1
	50

33. Lighthouses and beacons have been maintained in satisfactory condition.

LEGISLATION.

34. Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed during the year, the most important being :—

No. 19 of 1915.—"An Ordinance to amend the Licences Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance 1910."

No. 22 of 1915.—"An Ordinance to amend the Licences Consolidation and Amendment Ordinance 1910."

No. 26 of 1915.—"An Ordinance to amend the Law relating to the Guardianship of Minors."

No. 27 of 1915.—"An Ordinance to make provision for the appointment of Guardians to Illegitimate Children in certain cases."

EDUCATION.

35. The number of pupils on the rolls of the schools of the Colony was 2,570, compared with 2,674 in 1914.

36. The number of grant-in-aid schools examined in 1915 was 24; 20 of these are Roman Catholic, and the remaining four are Church of England schools. The percentage of attendance at the Roman Catholic schools was 68, and that at the Church of England schools was 73.

37. The number of pupils who presented themselves for examination was 1,502, being 73·7 per cent. of the number on the roll, compared with 68 per cent. in 1914. The number of pupils returned by the Inspector of Schools as "below standard" was 330.

38. The number of pupils on the roll of King's College and Victoria School was 61, compared with 75 in 1914. The numbers in the Government Free School have increased from 102 in 1914 to 114.

39. Three pupils who were candidates for the English Scholarship, sat for the London Matriculation Examination in June 1915. One passed in the 1st Division and one in the 2nd. No Cambridge Local Examinations were held, owing to the necessity for strict economy in expenditure.

40. The Seychelles Scholarship, of the value of £150 per annum for four years, was awarded to Mr. Henry Rideau on the result of the London Matriculation Examination. Mr. Rideau will leave to pursue his studies at home in June, 1916. There is only one laureate in England at present, and he is studying medicine.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

41. The number of in-patients treated in the Victoria Hospital was 548, being 20 more than last year.

Dispensaries.

42. 1,989 patients received attention at the different Government dispensaries in the Colony; of this number 1,183 were treated at the Victoria Dispensary.

Principal Diseases.

43. During the months of July and August there was an epidemic of mild dengue fever, but the cases were far from being typical. In the last two months of the year a considerable number of cases of an extremely acute and severe form of cellulitis were met with. The infection generally occurred in the legs. The treatment adopted was free incision of the infected areas followed by baths and constant application of hypertonic saline solution, as recommended by Professor Sir Almroth Wright, and proved most successful, the infected areas healing with surprising rapidity. An epidemic of jaundice broke out towards the end of the year, but was quickly subdued. The Chief Medical Officer reports no diminution in the number of cases of venereal diseases or of ankylostomiasis. The hookworm expert, who s being sent by the International Health Commission, to advise as to the best means of combatting the spread of the last-named disease, is not expected to arrive in Seychelles before the end of 1916. In anticipation of his visit a considerable number of persons were examined in order to ascertain the percentage of population infected with intestinal parasites. The results give the island of La Digue a percentage of 70, and the rest of the Colony 41, of ankylostomiasis infection.

Sanitation.

44. The general sanitary condition of the Colony was satisfactory. The campaign against rats in Victoria was continued.

Leper Asylum.

45. There were no deaths during the year. The number in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1915, was seven males.

Pauper Camp.

46. Seven male and four female paupers died during the year. The deaths were due to senile decay. The behaviour of patients was good. The Leper Camp and the Pauper Camp are situated on Round Island, Praslin, and are under the care of the Assistant Medical Officer of that district.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

47. Five deaths occurred during the year, two males and three females. On the 31st December, 1915, there remained in the asylum 12 males and 16 females. The average number of patients for the year was 26. There was one case of second admission.

MATERNITY HOME.

48. The work of this institution is on the increase and greatly appreciated by the public. There were 200 admissions and 154 babies were born.

SAVINGS BANK.

49. The balance remaining to the credit of depositors, 376 in number, on the 31st December, 1915, was Rs.64,791, as compared with Rs.57,145 at the end of 1914. The market value of investments in Government securities on account of Savings Bank was Rs.53,579 on the last day of the year. The revenue derived from Savings Bank investments was Rs.1,962, and the sum of Rs.1,385 was credited to depositors as interest accruing on deposits.

JUDICIAL.

50. 649 civil cases engaged the attention of the Supreme Court, and eight of the Supreme Court, sitting as a Colonial Court of Admiralty, making a total of 657 in the year, compared with 377 in 1914. The total number includes 412 cases entered by the Collector of Taxes for the recovery of taxes from parties.

51. On the criminal side 1,505 cases and 1,549 persons were tried in the Courts of the Colony. This number includes stipendiary cases of a quasi-criminal nature.

52. Assault, disturbance of the public peace, drunkenness, use of obscene language, plundering, and possession of "bacca," form the majority of the cases tried in the Police Court.

POLICE FORCE.

53. The strength of the Force is 76, and is divided between 15 stations.

54. The total number of offences of all descriptions reported to the police during the year was 2,295, in connection with which 1,381 persons were apprehended by the police or summoned to appear before the Courts. The value of property declared to the police to have been stolen was Rs.812, of which Rs.362 was recovered. The amount of fines imposed by the Courts as the result of police prosecutions was Rs.8,752.

Prisons.

55. 682 men and 146 women were committed to prison during 1915, against 528 men and 97 women in the previous year, an increase of 154 men and 49 women. Of the above, 569 men and 129 women were imprisoned for non-payment of fines and costs, and 112 men and 17 women for penal offences, and one man for debt. The daily average number in the prison was 65 men and 8 women.

56. The sanitary condition of the prison was satisfactory throughout the year. Thirteen men were admitted into hospital. The daily average on the sick list was one.

57. The discipline of the prison was well maintained.

58. The total cost of the prison amounted to Rs.12,891, and the revenue derived from prison labour was Rs.576.

VITAL STATISTICS.

59. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1915, was 24,435 persons, composed of 12,435 males and 12,000 females, an increase compared with the same period of the preceding year of 294, made up of 178 males and 116 females.

60. The number of births was 679, of which 362 were males and 317 were females. The birth rate was 27·78 per thousand. There was a decrease of 30 births compared with 1914; 242 births were illegitimate children, of whom 73 have been acknowledged by their natural fathers. Twins were born on nine occasions.

61. The deaths numbered 399 persons, of whom 225 were males and 174 were females. The number of deaths in 1914 was 372. The death rate was 16·33 per thousand. The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 55, a decrease of six compared with the number in the previous year. The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 280.

62. 119 marriages were celebrated during the year, an increase of 12 compared with 1914.

Climate.

63. The rainfall for the year was heavy and registered 114·88 inches, an increase of 5·81 inches over that of 1914. Rain fell on 166 days. The heaviest fall was on the 14th September, when 10·30 inches were recorded. July was the driest and February the wettest month.

64. The mean temperature for the year was 80·4, compared with 80·8 in 1914. The temperature ranged from 72·4 (September 14th) to 85·7 (April 16th).

65. The south-east moonsoon commenced on the 6th May and ended in the first week of November. The highest velocity recorded, was on the 2nd August, when it reached 21·3 miles per hour.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

66. Considering the shortage of shipping existing throughout the world owing to the state of war, the mail service of the Messageries Maritimes Company and the British India Steam Navigation Company was well performed, although the time table of the first-named company was considerably altered on many occasions.

67. The revenue of the Post Office was Rs.9,412, a falling off of Rs.4,076 compared with 1914; this was due to smaller sales of stamps to collectors. The amounts derived from sales of postage stamps in 1914 and 1915 were Rs.10,615 and Rs.6,649, respectively.

68. The volume of Money Order business transacted showed a falling off as compared with the previous year, but the value of postal orders issued rose from Rs.7,000 in 1914 to Rs.14,453 in 1915. The value of postal orders paid also rose from Rs.3,689 in 1914 to Rs.4,857 in 1915.

Telegraph and Telephone.

69. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a station in Mahé, and gives an excellent service.

70. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Public Works.

71. Expenditure on public works during the year was confined to those of an urgent nature.

Outlying Islands.

72. The number of labourers on the guano islands has been considerably reduced, owing to the cessation of the export of guano due to the War. A specially appointed visiting magistrate visited the islands of Remire, Marie Louise, Alphonse, and St. Pierre.

73. For the purpose of easier administration, "Silhouette," "North Island," and "Brigate Island," which are within easy reach of Mahé, were removed from the list of outlying islands by Ordinance No. 13 of 1915.

GENERAL.

74. The War has seriously affected the revenue of the Colony, and measures, which have been detailed in paragraph 10, had to be taken in 1915 and 1916 to collect extra revenue. Expenditure has been cut down to its minimum and is carefully scrutinised. The loss of revenue is primarily due to the non-export of guano, owing to the difficulty of obtaining freight. The price of coprah in Marseilles reached a very high figure towards the close of the year and continues high up to the date of this report, so planters should be able to derive considerable profits. The freight charges by the steamers of the Messageries Maritimes Company, by which all the Seychelles coprah is shipped, were only increased to a considerable extent on the 1st of March, 1916, but the enhanced market rate of coprah in Europe more than compensates for the large rise in freight. Vanilla has again been disappointing.

75. Seychelles, in common with many other parts of the British Empire, has shown its generosity by subscribing largely to the Red Cross Fund and other funds to alleviate the sufferings of our brave heroes in the field. The total sums sent from this Colony for various war funds amount to over £2,000.

76. The falling off in the coconut crop is, it is hoped, only temporary.

77. The Colony has a great deal to be thankful for. Normal life has been possible during the continuance of the greatest war in history, health has been good and the burden of sustaining life has been much less felt than in many other parts of the Empire. All are united in their loyalty to the Throne, and in the unshaken belief in the success of our cause.

C. R. M. O'BRIEN, Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

Government House,
Mahé, Seychelles,
30th May, 1916.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
858	Basutoland	1914–1915
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	,,
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
864	Ashanti	,,
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	,,
867	Somaliland	,,
868	British Honduras	1914
869	British Solomon Islands	1914–1915
870	Tongan Islands Protectorate	,,
871	Barbados	,,
872	Falkland Islands	1914
873	Uganda	1914–1915
874	British Guiana	,,
875	Mauritius	1914
876	Leeward Islands	1914–1915
877	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
878	Nigeria	1914
879	Cayman Islands	1914–1915
880	St. Lucia	,,
881	East Africa Protectorate	,,
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	,,
887	Fiji	,,
888	Sierra Leone	,,
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
890	Gambia	,,
891	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
892	Hong Kong	,,
893	Ashanti	,,
894	Gold Coast	,,
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1916.

No. 929

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 897.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1917.

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SKETCH MAPS will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846.
[Cd. 7622–37.]

No. 929.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 897.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Seychelles,
12th July, 1917.

SIR,

I have the honour to transmit the Blue Book of the Seychelles for the year 1916, together with a report thereon.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

C. R. M. O'BRIEN, Lt.-Col.,
Governor

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(C392) Wt. 47019/1099. 1,000 & 90. 9.17. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1916.

FINANCE.

1. The revenue collected was Rs.419,968
The expenditure incurred was 455,241
and the deficit on the year's transactions was therefore 35,273

2. The revenue was Rs.34,633 less than that estimated, but shows an increase of Rs.38,678, compared with the revenue of the previous year. The principal increases were under Customs, Licences and Excise, and Fees of Court.

3. The increase under Customs is due entirely to the steps taken late in 1915 to increase the import tariff on certain luxuries and to the imposition in April, 1916, of an export duty on coprah, the price of that commodity having greatly enhanced in value owing to increased demand, and as a result of the prevailing shortage of freight. The increase under Licences and Excise is due to the increase of certain spirit licence duties and to a tax on sugar-cane plantations, the sugar-canes being used exclusively for the manufacture of a beverage known locally as "Bacca." The increase under Fees of Court is due to large sums collected on account of warehouse rent on cargoes landed here in transit for other ports and to the registration of a large number of patents during the year.

4. Expenditure was kept at its minimum figure and all works except those of an urgent nature were suspended. Compared with 1915, the expenditure of 1916 showed a decrease of Rs.12,708, but was Rs.1,909 more than that estimated. This small increase can be attributed to the general rise in prices of materials and stores.

5. The revenue in the first quarter of 1916 suffered severely from the action of a combine of merchants who agreed among themselves to stop importing all goods the import duties on which had been raised. This combine lasted from January to April, 1916. Had it not been for the above, there is little doubt that the deficit on the year's transactions would have been far less. Further the non export of coprah from February to November, on account of lack of freight, and the difficulty generally experienced in obtaining supplies from Home and elsewhere, adversely affected the revenue figures of the year.

6. The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last five years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1912	Rs.475,304	Rs.580,605
1913	557,163	558,689
1914	522,956	533,869
1915	381,290	467,950
1916	419,968	455,241

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

7. The Assets exceeded the Liabilities on the 31st December, 1916, by the sum of Rs.148,652. Included in the Assets is a sum of Rs.90,033

invested by the Crown Agents on account of the General Revenue of the Colony and a sum of Rs.52,939 invested locally under the " Loans to Planters Ordinance."

PUBLIC DEBT.

8. The balance due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of Rs.300,000 made to the Colony on 26th April, 1900, amounted, at the end of the year, to Rs.170,225. The loan is repayable by payment of an annuity of principal and interest combined of Rs.14,817. The loan will be finally paid off in 1930.

TRADE.

9. The value of the imports during 1916 was Rs.1,486,419, compared with Rs.1,107,489 in 1915.

10. The principal countries of origin were :—

India	Rs.929,307
United Kingdom	237,843
France	104,269
Mauritius	83,706

11. The imports from India show an increase in value of Rs.418,845, compared with 1915. This increase is attributable to the inclusion in the figures of the value of goods landed here in transit for other places, and to this cause is also due the increase in the total value of the imports of the year. The value of imports from the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.39,003, compared with the previous year.

EXPORTS.

12. The value of the exports was Rs.1,672,242, an increase of Rs.262,276, compared with the previous year. The figures for the year also include the value of goods landed in transit for other ports and subsequently re-exported.

13. The principal countries among which exports were distributed are :—

France	Rs.863,156
French Colonies	460,296
United Kingdom	242,479

14. The principal commodities which show increases are :— Vanilla (20,491 kilos. against 2,470 kilos. in 1915); essential oils (190 hectolitres, against 102 hectolitres in 1915); whale oil, 7,000 litres, valued at Rs.21,000 were exported to South Africa. The last item represents a stock of oil which was left over at the suspension of whaling operations in the middle of 1915; rubber (2,425 kilos., against 285 kilos. in 1915).

15. Coprah, for the second year in succession, has shown a drop from 2,914,908 kilos. in 1915 to 2,369,908 kilos. in 1916. This decrease is attributable to fortuitous circumstances. From the end of February to the beginning of November, no export of coprah took place owing to the impossibility of securing freight on steamers. In November, the services of a steamer of the Hudson's Bay Company were secured by the Governor while on leave of absence in England, and 1,355 tons were thereby removed. There is no doubt that at least 800 tons of

accumulated stocks were in the dock sheds awaiting shipment at the end of the year. For the above reasons and for so long as freight difficulties last, it will be impossible to compare with any accuracy the increase or decrease in yearly export of coprah.

16. Since November 1916, there has been only one shipment of coprah and that was in February of this year when freight for 1,050 tons was secured, by the same agency mentioned above, on a steamer bound for Marseilles. There is, at the time of writing, a considerable quantity of coprah awaiting shipment and it is sincerely hoped that freight may be procured. The whole financial equilibrium of the Colony depends entirely on the sale of coprah. The price of that commodity is now quoted at over £80 per ton in Marseilles and unless our stocks can reach that market in good time this year, the effect on the finances and credit of this Colony will be disastrous.

17. The gratifying feature of the export figures for the year under review is the steady rise in the essential oil industry; the exports for 1916 were valued at Rs.94,200. This industry gives rise to a great deal of employment and appears to be well established in this Colony. It is also pleasing to record that the export of vanilla in 1916 was the largest on record since the year 1910, but unfortunately the market was poor and the prices obtained were low.

FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE.

Fisheries.

18. Whaling operations, which were suspended in 1915 owing to the St. Abbs' Whaling Company, which carried on business here, being in liquidation, have not been resumed during the year.

19. The waters around the Seychelles Islands are said, on good authority, to abound with whales, and it is trusted that a Company, with sufficient funds and capable management, will be found willing to take over the station erected by the St. Abbs' Whaling Company on St. Anne Island.

Agriculture.

20. The coconut crop of 1916 is estimated by the Curator of the Botanic Station at 23,679,935 nuts, against 25,759,942 in 1915, but, as already pointed out under Exports, all estimates of coconut crops during the present difficulties regarding freight are not to be relied upon. The Curator of the Botanic Station devoted a great deal of time during the year in studying coconut insect diseases and preparing and distributing pamphlets on the subject to planters.

21. Compared with other Colonies, the yield of nuts per tree is considerably below the average. Improved methods of cultivation are being slowly introduced and the advent in our midst of an experienced coconut planter from the East has already had some good effect. The methods employed by that planter are being watched with lively interest.

22. The vanilla flowering season in 1916, on which depends the crop of 1917, is reported to have been good and a crop of 25 tons is anticipated. The crop in 1916, although much less than the crop in past good years, showed a most gratifying increase over the lean years since 1911.

23. Coconut and vanilla experimental plantations have been undertaken by the Government but it is too early to forecast the results of these experiments.

24. More attention was devoted to rubber-tapping in 1916 than in any previous year and a fair profit has resulted to those who tapped their trees. The Curator of the Botanic Station, on the invitation of the officer administering the Government, delivered during the year an interesting lecture on rubber-planting, which was largely attended by planters and others.

SHIPPING.

25. The total tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared was 222,511, compared with 231,541 in 1915.

26. The nationality of the steamers which entered the port in 1916 is as follows:—

British	16
French	25
	41

LEGISLATION.

27. Seventeen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

EDUCATION.

28. The number of pupils attending the various schools in the Colony was 2,525, as compared with 2,570 in 1915.

29. There were 24 grant-in-aid schools 20 of these being managed by the Roman Catholic Mission and the four others by the Church of England Mission. The percentage of attendance was 67·7 for the Roman Catholic schools and 73·8 for the Church of England schools.

30. 1,453 pupils of the grant-in-aid schools presented themselves for examination, being 74·3 per cent. of the total number on the rolls. The number of pupils returned by the Inspector of Schools as "below standard" was 381.

31. The secondary schools of the Colony are represented by the King's College and Victoria School (Government), the St. Louis College (Marist Brothers), and the St. Joseph's Convent, managed by the Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny.

32. Cambridge Local Examinations were held in December, 1916, and the results obtained have been very satisfactory.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

33. 544 patients were treated in the Victoria Hospital, being four less than in 1915.

Dispensaries.

34. 2,947 patients were treated free in the different Government dispensaries in the Colony, being an increase of 784 over the number

treated in 1915. The Chief Medical Officer reports that this large increase is in consequence of the people suffering from reduced means and not to increase in disease.

Principal Diseases.

35. Some cases of acute gangrenous cellulitis occurred during the early months of the year. There was a widespread epidemic of jaundice throughout the year, principally among children. The disease appeared to be little, if at all, directly contagious and no deaths resulted therefrom.

Sanitation.

36. The general sanitary condition of the Colony was satisfactory.

Leper Asylum.

37. Three lepers were admitted during the year. The number remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1916, was nine males.

Pauper Camp.

38. Forty-one paupers were admitted. Thirteen deaths took place. There were 44 paupers remaining in the Camp at the close of the year.

Lunatic Asylum.

39. The daily average number of patients for the year was 24. There were 8 deaths, 1 male and 7 females. Six new patients were admitted. There were 24 inmates (14 males, 10 females) remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1916.

Maternity Home.

40. The number of admissions was 225, an increase of 25 on the year 1915. This institution increases yearly in popularity.

Savings Bank.

41. At the close of 1916, there were 383 depositors, the total amount to their credit being Rs.78,313, an increase of Rs.13,521 over the balance at 31st December, 1915. This is due to the closing of the branch of the Bank of Mauritius at the end of January, 1916.

42. The revenue of the Savings Bank was Rs.1,920, being interest derived from investments in England. The expenditure of the Bank was Rs.1,541. The market value of securities invested in England on the 31st December, 1916, was Rs.41,929.

JUDICIAL.

43. 417 civil cases were entered before the Supreme Court, as compared with 657 in 1915. The reduction in number is mainly attributable to the smaller number of cases filed for the recovery of taxes, due, no doubt, to the departure from this Colony of a large number of persons, liable for taxes, on service in German East Africa.

44. 1,819 cases and 2,132 persons were tried before the Criminal Courts of the Colony.

45. The Chief Justice reports a considerable increase of crime during the year. The number of criminal cases dealt with in the Supreme Court has risen from 197 to 355. Larceny, and in particular larceny of produce, accounts for the greater proportion of this increase. Prosecutions for offences of this nature have risen from 90 in 1915 to 155 in 1916. There was during the year, for a place of the size of this Colony, an abnormal number of grave crimes, no less than three cases of homicide, all of which came within the English definition of murder, being recorded, but as murder, under the law of this Colony, requires proof either of premeditation or lying-in-wait, only one case fell within the local definition of murder. The last case was tried in February of this year and resulted in one of the accused being acquitted and the three other accused being sentenced to death. Sentence of death was duly carried out in respect of two of the above, the third accused's sentence being commuted to one of penal servitude for 12 years.

Police Force.

46. The Police Force has an authorised strength of 76 men and is divided between 14 stations.

47. 2,932 offences of all descriptions were reported to the police, in connection with which 2,034 persons were arrested by the police or summoned to appear before the different courts.

Prisons.

48. The daily average in prison rose from 73 in 1915 to 113 in 1916, an increase roughly of 50 per cent. 808 men and 180 women were convicted during the year, an increase of 126 men and 34 women, compared with 1915.

49. The health of prisoners was satisfactory throughout the year. Twenty-two prisoners were treated in hospital. Two deaths occurred.

50. Prison labour was used during the year for works of public utility in a far larger measure than in previous years, and with satisfactory results. Important works which it would otherwise have been impossible to undertake, in view of the expenses involved, were carried out by prison labour in the districts of South Mahé and Praslin, where small temporary prisons were established.

51. The large increase in the number of prisoners during 1916 is due to an increase of poverty in the community, many of those convicted finding it more difficult to pay the fines inflicted. The number imprisoned for non-payment of fines and costs rose from 569 men and 129 women in 1915, to 662 men and 162 women in 1916.

VITAL STATISTICS.

52. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1916, was 24,109 persons, of whom 11,949 were males and 12,160 females. The population, compared with 1915, has decreased by 326 persons, due to the departure of a labour force for service under the military authorities in East Africa.

53. The births numbered 755, an increase of 76 compared with the previous year. Nine cases of twin births were recorded. The proportion of illegitimate births has risen from 242 in 1915 to 270 in 1916.

54. There were 405 deaths, an increase of six over 1915. The number of children who died under 1 year of age was 54, against 55 in 1915.

55. The excess of births over deaths was 350.

56. 103 marriages, including two in *articulo mortis*, were celebrated during the year.

Climate.

57. The rainfall amounted to only 67·38 inches, against 114·88 inches in 1915. Rain fell on 151 days. The heaviest fall was on the 30th December, when 4·83 inches were recorded. December was the wettest month and August and September the driest.

58. The mean temperature for the year was 79·8°, compared with 80·4° in 1915. The temperature ranged from 73·3° (12th December) to 86·9° (14th April).

59. The south-east monsoon commenced in the early part of June and ended in the middle of November. The highest velocity recorded was 25·9 miles per hour on the 19th July.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

60. Seychelles, like other parts of the world, suffered greatly in 1916 from the irregularity of the calls of the lines of steamers visiting the port.

61. The revenue of the Post Office amounted to Rs.10,747, an increase of Rs.1,335, as compared with 1915, principally due to increased collections on account of commission on money orders.

62. While the postal order business has remained stationary during the year, the money order business has risen from Rs.72,000 in 1915 to Rs.153,000 in 1916. This is the natural outcome of the closing down of the branch of the Bank of Mauritius. Merchants now avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Post Office for effecting their remittances to Bombay and other places.

63. It is interesting to record a marked increase of parcel post business between the United Kingdom and this Colony. The number of parcels received from and despatched to the United Kingdom in 1916 was 1,136 and 260, respectively, against 827 and 149 in 1915—a curious increase in spite of war conditions.

Telegraph and Telephones.

64. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a station in Mahé and gives an excellent service.

65. There are no public telephones.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Public Works.

66. Public works, except such works as upkeep and repairs, were in abeyance throughout the year.

Outlying Islands.

67. Mr. P. R. Dupont, Curator of the Botanic Station, whose services were lent by the Government to a private firm for a visit of investigation to the Aldabra Group, was appointed Special Visiting Magistrate for the Group during his stay there.

68. Mr. Dupont wrote full reports on the resources of the islands of the Group.

General.

69. I was absent from the Colony, on leave of absence necessitated by ill-health, from the 23rd July to the end of 1916, during which time the administration of the Government devolved, under the Letters Patent, on Mr. E. R. Logan, Chief Justice.

70. Another year of war has increased the financial difficulties of the Government of the Seychelles. The temporary shutting down of the exploitation of the guano deposits, owing to impossibility of obtaining freight, continues, and at present the Colony is faced with the problem of obtaining freight for its staple, coprah, on which the very life of the colonists depends. The price of coprah is now quoted at over £80 per ton in Marseilles, but so far we have been unable to place our products on that market through want of a means of conveyance. The future of Seychelles is intimately bound up with the question of steamer facilities. The Messageries Maritimes, after a long connection with the Colony, have given notice of the discontinuance of their call, with effect from April, 1918, and every step is being taken to ensure that this Colony shall not be cut off from direct means of communication with Europe, but up to the time of writing nothing definite has been arranged. The future is therefore fraught with difficulties which have to be faced calmly, as in other parts of His Majesty's dominions.

71. In December, 1916, a labour force consisting of 680 men was despatched to East Africa to assist the military authorities there in the prosecution of the campaign in German East Africa.

72. Notwithstanding the financial difficulties, the inhabitants have marked their allegiance and loyalty to the cause of Britain and her allies by contributing largely to war funds during the past year.

C. R. M. O'Brien, Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

12th July, 1917.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year
894	Gold Coast	1915
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"
915	British Honduras	1915
916	Mauritius	"
917	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
918	St. Lucia	1915–1916
919	Nyasaland	"
920	Nigeria	1915
921	East Africa Protectorate	1915–1916
922	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916

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No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
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83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
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89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 964.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 929.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

September, 1918.

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1918.

[Cd. 8973–13.] *Price* 1*d*. *Net.*

No. 964.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 929.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1917.*

FINANCE.

1. The revenue amounted to Rs.446,533, being Rs.16,547 below the estimated amount, but Rs.26,564 above the revenue collected in 1916.

2. The total expenditure was Rs.435,560, compared with Rs.455,241 in 1916. The expenditure was less than the estimated amount by the sum of Rs.27,465.

3. The year's transactions resulted in a surplus of the sum of Rs.10,972. This is the first occasion since 1911 that a surplus has been shown.

4. The principal increase in revenue, compared with 1916, is shown under Head "Post Office." This large increase (Rs.38,329) was due to abnormally heavy sales of postage stamps owing to shipment of 70 tons of coprah by parcels post to France in the latter part of the year. This method of shipping large quantities of produce by parcels post has now been vetoed by the French Mail Company. It is estimated that Rs.32,000 worth of stamps were purchased for the posting of the above parcels. The sum of roughly Rs.26,350 is due to the French Post Office as share of postage. This amount was not paid in 1917 so that the surplus on the year's transactions is more apparent than real.

5. The details of expenditure call for no special comment. The expenditure was kept down to the minimum figure consistent with efficient administration, and no public works, except of an urgent nature, were undertaken.

6. The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1913	Rs.557,163	Rs.558,689
1914	522,956	533,869
1915	381,290	467,950
1916	419,968	455,241
1917	446,533	435,560

The figures for the three full years of war (1915–1917) are interesting. While revenue due principally to some extra taxation has steadily risen, expenditure as the result of extreme care and economy has gradually diminished.

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846: [Cd. 7622–37.]

(C488) Wt. 11/42. 1,000/90. 9.18. B.&F.Ltd. Gp 11/2

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The balance in favour of Assets at the 31st December, 1917, was Rs.159,624. The Investments of the Colony were as follows :—

On account of General Revenue ..	Rs.169,667
„ „ of Savings Bank ..	70,093
	Rs.239,760

Public Debt.

8. The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury, on account of the Imperial Loan of Rs.300,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making, was Rs.160,089. This loan will be finally repaid in 1930.

TRADE.

9. The total value of the trade of the Colony was Rs.2,619,459, against Rs.3,158,662 for the previous year. The Imports were valued at Rs.1,272,520, compared with Rs.1,486,420 in 1916 and the Exports at Rs.1,346,939, against Rs.1,672,242 in the preceding year.

10. It is satisfactory to record that Imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of Rs.86,408 over the figures for the previous year and exceed the total value of imports from Foreign Countries by Rs.167,539. The imports from Foreign Countries show a decrease in value of Rs.85,733 compared with the previous year.

11. The imports from India—our granary—compared with 1916, show the considerable falling off of Rs.234,989. This is probably accounted for by the fact that fewer steamers called last year—from August to December only two shipments of foodstuffs were received —and also to increased consumption of locally grown foodstuffs and consequent reduced importations.

Exports.

12. The value of our Exports was considerably affected by war conditions, viz., the prevailing shortage of tonnage. 2,113 tons of coprah, valued at Rs.894,059, were exported during the year, against 2,370 tons, valued at Rs.836,829 in 1916.

13. The value of vanilla exports dropped from Rs.164,069 in 1916 to Rs.50,837 in 1917. Rubber shows a slight falling off in value. The rise in the essential oils industry reported last year has been maintained and there are now more distilleries at work, but owing to lack of shipping facilities, the exports have been less.

14. 2,020 tons of guano were exported in 1917 against 980 tons in the previous year. The shipments were made to Mauritius and Reunion in small sailing vessels where guano is in large demand to meet the needs of sugar planters.

15. The principal countries between which exports were distributed are :—

France	Rs.542,225
United Kingdom	510,699
French Colonies	227,520

16. Our export trade with France compared with 1916 shows the large decrease in value of Rs.320,931, while the exports to the Mother Country have risen by Rs.268,220. This is attributable to

no freight being available to French ports and a shipment of 1,000 tons of coprah in December being sent to the United Kingdom, instead of to France, which has been the destination hitherto of that produce.

17. Taking into consideration all the difficulties of the present time, we have reason to be thankful that our position is not worse. The dislocation of financial and commercial conditions has been unprecedented and the Government has been fortunate in arranging for telegraphic transfers to Bombay through the Crown Agents and the India Office to assist merchants to make remittances to Bombay and thus finance their imports from that port on which we largely depend for our sustenance. Our chief concern has been however, shortage of tonnage and difficulty in obtaining transport. Importers have not only suffered from short deliveries but often from no deliveries of certain classes of goods. The same disability has been experienced by exporters. As regards coprah alone—the staple product of the Colony—there were at the end of the year between 1,500 and 2,000 tons awaiting shipment. Prices at the port of Marseilles for this product have never ruled so high; but for want of freight, producers were unable to take advantage of this market. Fortunately, through the good offices of the Colonial Office and the Ministry of Shipping, space for 1,000 tons for the United Kingdom was obtained in December and this export together with the shipment to France in the previous February has greatly relieved the financial stringency. Since then, and up to the time of writing this report, no further shipment of coprah has taken place.

FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE.

Fisheries.

18. Whaling operations were not undertaken during the year, and the up-to-date whaling station erected by the St. Abbs Whaling Company (now in liquidation) on St. Anne Island has remained closed for want of a purchaser.

19. Experts are of opinion that there are good possibilities regarding the development of the fisheries of these Islands, but capital would be required as experiments would have to be carried out before the industry could be launched on sound lines.

Agriculture.

20. The Curator of the Botanic Station estimates that the coconut crop of 1917 was 19,659,167 nuts. Should this estimate be correct, it would give a falling off of over 4,000,000 nuts compared with 1916, but it is particularly difficult to estimate with accuracy when exports are irregular and a considerable number of nuts are converted into oil.

21. The Curator reports that scale insects are not as injurious to the coconut trees now as they were last year but that on the other hand the rhinoceros beetle is increasing its ravages. Measures have been taken on many estates to destroy refuse to prevent the spread of this beetle. Unfortunately some estates are handicapped by want of capital from adopting similar measures. The question of passing legislation compelling the destruction of all refuse on estates is under consideration but, in view of the fact that land has been parcelled out into small lots in the Colony and belongs to many small proprietors

possessed of very small means, such legislation, if passed, may not meet with general approval.

22. Experiments regarding the manuring of different plots of coconut trees were carried out by the Government on Long Island, but have not, so far, owing to adverse conditions, given results of great value.

23. The vanilla crop of 1916 (cured and prepared in 1917) was again disappointing. Only 6½ tons were exported, but a large part of the crop has not been sent to the European market owing to lack of shipping facilities. The prospects for vanilla culture in the future appear less promising than in the past.

24. Greater attention is being paid to the rubber industry. There appears little doubt that rubber should, years ago, have taken the place of vanilla as the second staple product of the Colony, but planters have not taken up the planting of rubber with any great keenness. It is pleasing to note this lukewarm interest in rubber planting is rapidly disappearing. The Curator of the Botanic Station is of opinion there are enough rubber trees in the Colony to produce 100 tons of rubber per annum. The rubber tree in this Colony, it may be observed, is remarkably free from disease and thrives nearly everywhere. There is no doubt that much of the hilly ground of the Colony—which at present produces nothing—could be usefully converted into rubber plantations. Rubber-tapping on a considerable scale will soon be undertaken by the Manager of the Seychelles Rubber & Coconut Estates Company, Ltd.

25. The essential oil industry is maintaining its development. New distilleries have been and are being erected. The falling off in export last year of essential oils in no way indicates a falling off in manufacture. Shippers experienced great difficulties in getting away this commodity which finds a ready market in London.

26. A local rope-making industry has sprung up as a result of the war and some excellent rope made of coir fibre and of sisal hemp has been manufactured both in the prison and by private enterprise with very primitive machinery. It has been readily disposed of for local needs and the further development of this industry will be interesting to watch.

SHIPPING.

27. The total tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared was 394,019, compared with 222,511 in 1916. This large increase is due to the calls of several Government vessels of large tonnage.

28. The nationality of shipping which entered the port is as follows :—

British	50
French	18
Japanese	4
	72

LEGISLATION.

29. Twenty-one Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

30. Ordinance No. 9 of 1917 was passed in connection with the Ankylostomiasis campaign and provides for the compulsory erection of latrines on all premises used for habitation. Several of the Ordinances give the necessary powers to control the sale of food-stuffs.

EDUCATION.

31. The number of pupils attending the schools of the Colony was 2,513, compared with 2,525 in 1916.

32. There were 22 grant-in-aid schools. 18 of these are managed by the Roman Catholic Mission and the 4 others by the Church of England Mission. The average attendance at the Roman Catholic Schools was 69 per cent. and at the Church of England schools 75 per cent.

33. The number of pupils from the grant-in-aid schools which were presented for examination was 1,465, being 75·3 per cent. of the pupils on the roll. The number of pupils returned by the Acting Inspector of Schools as "below standard" was 339.

34. The staff of the King's College has been considerably depleted owing to the departure of the masters for service at the Front and the difficulty of filling their appointments from home.

35. Cambridge Local Examinations were held in December, 1917. The results have not yet been learnt.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

36. The total number of patients treated in the Victoria Hospital was 684, an increase of 140 on the number of 1916.

Dispensaries.

37. 3,198 patients were treated in the different Government dispensaries, compared with 2,947 patients in the previous year. This increase as well as in the case of admissions to hospital is due to the porters who served with the Seychelles Labour Force requiring treatment on their return.

Principal Diseases.

38. During the last month of the year an epidemic of measles of a mild type broke out and, in spite of all endeavours taken against its spreading, the epidemic continues up to the present. It is, however, showing signs of abating.

39. The principal event of medical interest during the year was the return of the Seychelles Labour Force from East Africa in May. The force originally consisted of 791 men. 250 died in East Africa and it was decided to repatriate the force on account of ill-health. As most of the deaths had been due to dysentery of a bacillary type, which is very virulent and up to that time unknown in Seychelles, steps were taken to quarantine the Force on arrival. The general health of the Force was found, on arrival, to be far from satisfactory. The principal diseases were dysentery, pneumonia, malaria, and beri-beri. 25 deaths took place in the Quarantine Station. At the end of 15 days the acute cases, 15 in number, were removed to hospital and the balance liberated from quarantine. Soon afterwards bacillary dysentery broke out in South Mahe in the family of a returned porter, but the quick and prompt measures taken stamped out the disease

before it could spread further. Many of the men still continue to have attacks of malaria and several are suffering from septic ulcers which are very resistent to treatment. In all there were 327 deaths amongst the Force, a mortality of 41 per cent.

ANKYLOSTOMIASIS.

40. A campaign against Ankylostomiasis was started by Dr. J. F. Kendrick, under the auspices of the International Health Board, and by the end of the year treatment had been accorded to all residents in two-thirds of the Island of Mahé. The campaign is most thoroughly conducted and is carried out by means of a house to house visitation, all who are infected being treated. 90 per cent. of the people have been found to be infected and it is clear the general health of the population will be greatly benefited—in fact the improvement is already visible. The population of all classes has offered itself for treatment with great keenness. This is greatly due to the tact of Dr. Kendrick and the patience by which the treatment and its results have been explained at the house to house visitation.

41. The Colony owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. J. D. Rockefeller, the founder of the International Health Commission, and his associates, through whose generosity this beneficent work in our midst has been possible, and generations unborn should reap its results.

42. A law was passed enforcing the provision of latrines on all buildings used for habitation and this should mitigate the danger of re-infection.

43. The Lunatic Asylum, the Leper and the Pauper Camp, and the Maternity Home continued to be well managed. One of the main objects of the Maternity Home was to replace incompetent midwives by properly trained women and the Chief Medical Officer reports that this main object has been achieved. The Pauper Camp has had to be enlarged owing to the number of persons requiring admission.

SAVINGS BANK.

44. At the close of the year there were 382 depositors, the total amount to their credit being Rs.92,975, an increase of Rs.14,662 over the balance on the 31st December, 1916.

45. The revenue of the bank was Rs.1,999 and the expenditure Rs.1,649. The investments on account of Savings Bank funds amounted to Rs.70,693.

JUDICIAL.

46. 437 Civil cases were entered, of which 220 cases were for the recovery of unpaid taxes. There were no cases which require special comment.

47. 1,573 cases and 1,976 persons were tried before the Criminal Courts of the Colony.

48. The Chief Justice reports that while drunkenness shows a satisfactory decrease, cases of " plundering " (petty theft of produce) continue to increase. There was no serious crime of violence during the year.

49. A Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Justice was appointed to consider the advisability of applying to Seychelles the system in force in Trinidad for checking praedial larceny. The report of the Committee is now under consideration.

Police Force.

50. The authorised strength of the Police Force is 76 and the Force is divided between 14 stations.

51. 2,670 offences of all descriptions were reported to the Police in connection with which 1,844 persons were arrested by the Police or summoned to appear before the different Courts.

Prisons.

52. There was a considerable diminution compared with the previous year in the total number of persons convicted. 605 men and 170 women were imprisoned against 808 men and 180 women in 1916. The daily average in prison was 100·11 in the male prison and 9·6 in the female prison.

53. The health of prisoners was satisfactory. One death occurred. 21 prisoners were treated in hospital.

54. Prison labour was used to a considerable extent with good results on works of public utility.

55. Two executions of prisoners sentenced to death for murder committed in 1916 were carried out. This was the first occasion on which capital sentences were exacted.

VITAL STATISTICS.

56. The estimated population on the 31st December, 1917, was 24,528 including 12,229 males and 12,299 females. The population, compared with 1916, has increased by 419 persons.

57. The number of births registered was 719, a decrease of 36 compared with 1916. The birth-rate was 29·31 per thousand. Nine twin births were recorded.

58. There were 506 deaths, an increase of 101 over the number of deaths in the previous year. This increase, in great measure, was due to mortality among returned porters on their return from East Africa. The death-rate was 20.63 per thousand.

59. 103 marriages were celebrated.

Climate.

60. The rainfall for the second year in succession was low; only 66·22 inches being recorded against 67·38 inches in 1916. The heaviest fall occurred on 14th January when 2·52 inches were registered. January was the wettest month and May and October the driest. Rain fell on 157 days.

61. The mean temperature for the year was 79·6 compared with 79·8 in 1916. The temperature ranged from 86·3 on (14th March) to 71·8 on (25th August).

62. The South-east trade winds commenced unusually early (28th April) amd continued until nearly the end of October.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

63. The Messageries Maritimes Company only made 9 outward and 7 homeward calls and the calls of the British India Steam Navigation Company's Steamers were also very irregular so that considerable dislocation of mail arrangements resulted.

64. The revenue of the Post Office was Rs.49,600 and the expenditure amounted to Rs.40,054. The large increase in Postal revenue, compared with the previous year, has already been commented upon under "Finance."

65. There was marked activity in Money Order business, an increase of over 300 per cent. compared with 1916, but there was a slight decrease in Postal Order business. Merchants have made more use of Post Office remittances as a means of financing their imports from India.

66. Parcel Posts business largely increased but this was only temporary as already explained due to the shipment of large quantities of coprah by Parcels Post to France which has now been stopped.

Telegraph and Telephones.

67. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a station in Mahé and gives an excellent service. Seychelles was in telegraphic communication with the outer world throughout the year.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

68. Public works were entirely confined to upkeep and repairs of a recurrent nature. To effect a war economy, no new works have been undertaken for now over 3 years.

Outlying Islands.

69. No outlying island was visited by a Government official during the year owing to insurmountable difficulties. The number of labourers employed on the distant Islands has largely diminished owing to the shutting down of all works for the exploitation of guano except in adjacent islands due to war conditions.

70. The lease of the Aldabra Group (except Astove)was, after lengthy negotiations, transferred to Messrs. W. & J. Biggerstaff, of London.

General.

71. The Governor was absent on sick leave at home from the 23rd July, 1916, to the 20th March, 1917, during which period the Government was administered by His Honour E. R. Logan,Chief Justice.

72. The effects of the war are being universally felt in this Colony, and the increasing difficulties as to freight have made our position critical. Only two shipments of coprah were possible and large accumulations remained on hand at the close of the year. Restrictions on exports at home and elsewhere have also added to our difficulties. Further, we are now cut off from direct communication by sea with Europe and are entirely dependent on calls of the British India line of steamers on their voyage between Bombay and the East Coast, and these calls are very irregular. This is our only means for outward and homeward mails and for imports and exports.

73. These difficulties and hardships are understood to be inevitable in our isolated position.

74. The spirit of the people in face of their pressing difficulties is commendable. All realize that hardships must be faced in the determination of our Empire and her Allies to bring the war to a successful conclusion.

75. In spite of shortness of means in the community, the contributions to the different war funds continued to be made with the same self denial and generosity as before. The loyalty of all classes to the Crown and pride in the heroic achievements of our Navy and Land and Air Forces has never been more marked.

C. R. M. O'Brien, Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

4th May, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c	Year.
930	Trinidad and Tobago	1916
931	Gibraltar	,,
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	,,
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	,,
938	Falkland Islands	,,
939	Sierra Leone	,,
940	Straits Settlements	,,
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	,,
943	Jamaica	,,
944	Somaliland	,,
945	Swaziland	,,
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	,,
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	,,
952	Leeward Islands	,,
953	St. Vincent	,,
954	Uganda	,,
955	Nyasaland	,,
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916
957	British Honduras	,,
958	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1916–1917
959	Cayman Islands	,,
960	Bermuda	1916
961	Mauritius	,,
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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No. 1005.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 964.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1919.

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No. 1005.

SEYCHELLES.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 964.)

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1918.*

FINANCE.

1. The Revenue collected was Rs.408,849, being Rs.51,376 less than the estimated amount and Rs.37,684 less than the Revenue of 1917.

2. The Expenditure was Rs.441,234, being Rs.18,558 less than the estimated amount and Rs.5,674 more than the expenditure for the year 1917.

3. The year's transactions, therefore, resulted in a deficit of the sum of Rs.32,385.

4. The year 1918 was a bad one for revenue and trade generally. Only a small shipment of coprah (about 650 tons) was made and great difficulty was experienced, through restrictions on exports in the United Kingdom and irregular steamship communications, in obtaining supplies. These reasons accounted for a serious drop under head "Customs" and "Harbour Dues." The depression in trade caused also a large falling off in the revenue collected under head "Licences." The decrease under "Crown Lands" was due to the small shipments of guano made, and these were, in great part, from privately-owned islands so that no "royalty on guano" could be claimed by Government.

5. The small increase in expenditure, as compared with the year 1917, was due to (1) new pensions granted in 1918, (2) increased expenditure under "Prison Department" due to abnormally large number of prisoners undergoing sentences and (3) to the great rise in prices of all supplies required from outside.

6. The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last six years;—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1913	Rs.557,163	Rs.558,689
1914	522,956	533,869
1915	381,290	467,950
1916	419,968	455,241
1917	446,533	435,560
1918	408,849	441,234

The above statement is interesting as illustrating to what a considerable extent the revenue has been affected by war conditions and this in spite of additional taxation having been imposed in December, 1915. It is also illustrative of the efforts made by the Administration to reduce expenditure in keeping with the fall in revenue. The expenditure was reduced to its possible minimum during the war period.

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846.—[Cd. 7622–37.]

Assets and Liabilities.

7. The assets of the Colony exceeded the liabilities at the 31st December, 1918 by the sum of Rs.127,239. The investments of the Colony were as follows:—

On account of General Revenue	Rs.152,844
,, ,, Savings Bank	70,093
	Rs.222,937

Public Debt.

8. The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury, on account of the Imperial Loan of Rs.300,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making, was Rs.149,676. This loan will be finally repaid in 1930.

Gift of Rs.100,000 voted by the Government of Mauritius.

9. In view of the probability that, through shortage of tonnage, the estimated revenue for the year 1918 would not be realised, the Secretary of State for the Colonies was good enough to approach the Mauritius Government on behalf of the Colony of Seychelles and the Government of Mauritius was generous enough to vote the sum of Rs.100,000 as a free gift to Seychelles, if necessary.

10. This magnanimous gift was gratefully accepted by this Government and the deficit for the year 1918 will be met from that sum. The balance on the sum voted by Mauritius will, no doubt, be used to make up any deficit which may result on the transactions of the current year. This neighbourly act of the sister Colony of Mauritius will materially assist the finances of this Colony and has been greatly appreciated by the inhabitants of Seychelles.

TRADE.

11. The total value of the trade of the Colony was Rs.1,607,463, compared with Rs.2,619,459 last year. This is the lowest on record for this century.

Imports.

12. The value of the imports was Rs.984,931, compared with Rs.1,272,519 last year. The falling-off in value was due to the scarcity of shipping and the difficulty of obtaining many articles from the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

13. The imports from the United Kingdom show a decrease in value of Rs.122,588, compared with 1917. The value of the imports from India also show a falling off of Rs.157,516, compared with the value of imports from there in 1917. The values of imports from France, Japan, and the United States of America also show a reduction.

Exports.

14. The export trade of the Colony was very poor, the total value for 1918 being only Rs.622,504, which is less than half of the value of the exports for the previous year (Rs.1,346,939). There is no doubt that this very considerable drop was the cause of the financial depression which this Colony experienced last year.

(C591). Wt. 1/155. 1,000 & 50. 10/19. B. & F. Ltd. G. 11.

15. The exports were chiefly affected by the suspension of regular direct communication with Marseilles, which had been the principal market for our produce. Only 650 tons of coprah, valued at Rs.224,050, were exported, compared with 2,113 tons, valued at Rs.894,059 in 1917. 2,039 hectolitres of coconut oil, valued at Rs.96,385, were exported to Mauritius and Madagascar. 11 tons of vanilla were exported, valued at Rs.65,747. 2,470 tons of guano were exported, the larger quantity of which went to Mauritius. $2\frac{3}{4}$ tons of amber seeds (a new industry) were shipped to France at a value of Rs.3,607.40. The cultivation of ambrette (amber seed) is on the increase. The distillation of essential oils continued to flourish during the year but, owing to want of freight, the amount exported was slightly less than in 1917.

16. The principal countries of destination of our exports were :—

France	Rs.312,084
Mauritius	170,733
French Colonies	70,800
United Kingdom	49,271

17. The export trade of this Colony with the United Kingdom dropped in value from Rs.510,699 in 1917 to Rs.49,271 in 1918. There was no shipping available during the year to United Kingdom ports.

18. At the end of 1918, there remained in the Colony about 2,500 tons of coprah, representing a net total value of about Rs.750,000, and a large amount of essential oils, vanilla, etc. The Colony was fortunate enough to secure freight to London in January of this year and 1,100 tons of coprah and 100 tons of general cargo were shipped. This has had a good effect on the trade of the Colony and there are signs—slow but sure—of gradual revival of some measure of prosperity. A further quantity of 700 tons of coprah was shipped in March of this year.

19. Normal trade conditions and the welfare of the community depend on shipping facilities. At present, there is no indication of a direct mail and cargo service with Europe, but no doubt arrangements will be made by the few shipping companies which call at Mahé for the issue of through bills of lading for cargo for Europe via Bombay or Durban, in the near future.

FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE.

Fisheries.

20. It is much to be deprecated that the fisheries of this Colony have not been developed to any great extent. It would, however, require careful experiments and large capital to develop them satisfactorily. The seas around the islands teem with fish of all kinds.

21. Whaling operations were not undertaken during the year. The station erected by the St. Abbs Whaling Company in 1914 remains closed.

Agriculture.

22. It is very difficult to estimate the coconut crop of the Colony, especially now, when exports are irregular and a considerable number of nuts are converted into oil. Nevertheless the Curator of the Botanic Station thinks the crop is decreasing and attributes this falling-off to deficient rainfall in certain parts of the archipelago and to diseases consequent on the exhaustion of the soil.

23. Although manuring is being taken up gradually, considerable attention is still required to be paid to plant sanitation before diseases can be successfully eradicated. The two principal diseases are Melitomma and the stem-bleeding disease. The Agricultural Department has issued reports describing these diseases and suggesting the lines on which they can be eradicated.

24. Experiments regarding the manuring of coconut trees at Long Island were undertaken by the Agricultural Department and gave useful results.

25. The vanilla crop of 1918 can be considered a good one compared with the crops of the last five years. It amounted to 11 tons. A good crop in the 1890's used to reach 35 to 45 tons. It may truly be said that vanilla-planting is not carried out on the same scale as formerly and that plantations are being given up gradually.

26. Rubber was disappointing. The export was about one-sixth that of 1917. Many planters gave up tapping but are awaiting freight facilities to resume work. It must also be remembered that many necessary appliances for tapping were unobtainable during the War. The Curator estimates that the present acreage under rubber cultivation could be trebled. It is much to be regretted that greater attention is not being given to this culture. Tapping on a larger scale than formerly, however, is now being undertaken.

27. In spite of the utmost shipping difficulties, the essential oil industry continued to develop steadily. In fact, it may be said to be the most satisfactory outlook for the future of this Colony. The market was good and good profits were made. This industry helps to employ many labourers.

28. In the interests of the community new capital is required to develop fully the agricultural possibilities of the islands.

29. The rope-making industry, which has sprung up as a result of the War, has developed satisfactorily and good rope, made from coconut and aloes fibre, is being used instead of the imported article.

SHIPPING.

30. The total tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared was 139,469, compared with 394,019 in 1917. This large decrease shows the extent to which Seychelles was affected by the prevailing shortage of tonnage.

31. The nationality of shipping which entered the port was as follows:—

British	36
French	7
Total	43

LEGISLATION.

32. Twenty-one Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during 1918.

33. The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1 of 1918. An Ordinance to control the sale of foodstuffs which was passed to provide for the more equitable distribution of foodstuffs and to avoid hoarding for profit-making and other purposes.

Nos. 2 and 3 of 1918. These Ordinances provide for the establishment of a Labour Bureau and for the compulsory cultivation of ground crops. These Ordinances were passed as the result of a campaign to increase the cultivation of local-grown foodstuffs in order to safeguard the food supply of the Colony, in case communication with Bombay by sea became more difficult.

No. 21 of 1918. "An Ordinance to provide for the closing of Shops on Sunday." This measure has had very good results in checking drunkenness, which was very prevalent on Sundays, and met with the universal approbation of the community.

EDUCATION.

34. The number of pupils attending the schools of the Colony was 2,217, compared with 2,512 in 1917. Regular attendance was considerably affected by the prevalence of an epidemic of measles in a mild form at the beginning of the year.

35. The number of Grant-in aid schools remained at 22, as before. 18 of these are Roman Catholic schools, the remaining 4 are Church of England schools. The average attendance decreased from 69 per cent. to 63·6 per cent. for the Roman Catholic schools, and from 75·9 per cent. to 70·3 per cent. for the Church of England schools.

36. The number of pupils presented for examination was 1,223, being 72·7 per cent. of the pupils on the roll. The number of pupils returned by the examiner as below standard was 340.

37. There are indications also that the prevailing poverty militated against regular attendance. Under such conditions it is obvious that little can be expected of the children; and the wonder is, not that the children know so little, but that, with the above difficulties added to those already existing, such as the language difficulty, the teachers should succeed as well as they do.

38. The results of the Cambridge local examinations held in December, 1917, only reached here in December 1918. The results were creditable to all concerned.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

39. 748 in-patients were treated in the Victoria Hospital, being an increase of 64 compared with 1917.

Dispensaries.

40. 3,583 patients were treated in the different Government dispensaries, compared with 3,198 patients in 1917.

Principal Diseases.

41. An epidemic of measles which started in December, 1917, continued for the first six months of the year. The schools were kept

closed during January, February, and March. Nearly all the children under 15 years of age contracted the disease, which was, for the most part of a mild type and complications were singularly few.

42. There were no other epidemic diseases during the year. The general health of the inhabitants was good. The prevailing poverty made itself felt on health to a small extent, the sufferers being mostly very young children.

43. The ankylostomiasis campaign was continued with unabated vigour by Dr. Kendrick, of the International Health Board. By the end of the year, the campaign had been completed over the whole of Mahé to the great benefit of the general health. The Colony owes a large debt of gratitude to the International Health Board and to their untiring local representative, Dr. J. F. Kendrick, for the beneficent work they are carrying out in our midst.

Other Government Institutions.

44. The Maternity Home continued to be well patronised. The number of patients admitted was 207. The number of babies born was 151.

45. The average number of patients in the Lunatic Asylum, South Mahé, during the year was 23.

46. Steps were taken late in the year to build a Workhouse in Mahé, to replace the present Pauper Camp on Round Island, Praslin. The number of inmates of the Pauper Camp increased considerably during the year. The Leper Camp will remain on Round Island, Praslin.

Savings Bank.

47. The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1918, was Rs.94,661, an increase of Rs.1,685 over the previous year's balance. The number of depositors was 379.

48. The revenue of the bank was Rs.1,967 and the expenditure was Rs.1,664. The investments on account of Savings Bank funds remained at the same figure, viz., Rs.70,093.

JUDICIAL.

49. The work of the Courts has considerably increased. This can be attributed to greater poverty due to higher cost of living, less wages, and unemployment.

50. 849 civil cases were entered during the year, compared with 437 in the previous year. Of the total for 1918, 625 cases were for the recovery of taxes, compared with 220 such cases in 1917. These figures speak for themselves. The past year was a hard one for the labouring classes.

51. 1,996 cases and 2,450 persons were brought before the Criminal Courts of the Colony, compared with 1,573 cases and 1,976 persons in 1917. This increase is principally due to prosecutions for larceny of produce. The number of such prosecutions was 220 in 1918, compared with 97 in 1917, 74 in 1916, and 32 in 1915.

52. Steps are being taken to provide for the protection of agricultural produce from theft by means of legislation but as the detection of such thefts is not easy, a large reduction in the number of such cases is not anticipated until work starts on the guano islands and trade conditions are more settled.

Police Force.

53. The authorised strength of the Police force is 77 and the force is divided between 15 stations. In addition to the above there are 7 men paid by the Gold Coast Government and 2 men by the Uganda Government, who act as guards in charge of political prisoners from those Colonies.

54. 3,521 offences of all descriptions were reported to the Police in connection with which 2,386 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned to appear before the different Courts of the Colony.

Prisons.

55. The number of persons undergoing imprisonment during the year 1918 was considerable: 1,062 men and 276 women, compared with 605 men and 170 women in 1917. The daily average in the prison rose from 111 in 1917 to 183 in 1918.

56. This large increase in the average number in prison taxed the accommodation and the staff to the utmost and steps had to be taken to provide further accommodation and a larger staff.

57. Taking into account the overcrowding which resulted at times, the health of the prisoners was satisfactory. There was an outbreak of mild chicken pox, there being 25 cases in all. There were 3 deaths.

58. Prison labour is being used to an increasing extent. Many works of public utility are now being undertaken by prison labour; some wholly, others partly. The rope-making industry in the Prison has made great strides. All the rope required by the Port Department is now being supplied from the prison.

VITAL STATISTICS.

59. The estimated population of the Colony at the close of the year was 24,572; 12,229 males and 12,343 females, an increase of 44 females over the total for the year 1917.

60. The number of births was 641. The birth rate was 26·13 per thousand. The proportion of illegitimate children was high.

61. There were 418 deaths, compared with 506 in 1917. The death-rate was 17·4 per thousand.

62. 91 marriages were celebrated, a decrease of 12 compared with 1917.

Climate.

63. The rainfall was higher than in 1916 and 1917, and 82·79 inches were recorded against 66·22 inches in 1917 and 67·38 inches in 1916. The rainfall was, however, not evenly distributed. There was a drought from June to August. The heaviest fall occurred on November 2nd, when 4·35 inches were registered. January was the wettest month and June the driest. Rain fell on 148 days.

64. The mean temperature for the year was 79·5 compared with 79·6 in 1917. The temperature ranged from 86·3 (29th April) to 71·9 (February 14th).

65. The south-east Trade winds commenced on the 4th May and continued until the third week in October.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

66. The Messageries Maritimes Company gave up calling in April. Arrangements were made by the Colonial Office and the General Post Office, London, for the steamers of Messrs. Bullard, King & Co., to call at Seychelles on their way from Colombo to Durban and vice versa. Advantage was taken of every opportunity to despatch mails and, although the period of transit was much longer than formerly when there was a direct service with Europe, the mail service during 1918 was fairly satisfactory.

67. On two occasions mails and parcels were lost at sea through enemy action.

68. The revenue of the Post Office was Rs.56,445, and the expenditure was Rs.22,244. The large increase in Postal revenue, compared with the previous year, is more apparent than real, as it is due to the commission on money orders issued on India having been raised from 2 per cent. to 14 per cent. to recoup the Government for loss of exchange on the rupee. The settlement for money orders with India is being now made at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* to the rupee instead of 1*s.* 4*d.* as before.

69. The number of parcels received from the United Kingdom shows a large increase. This is due to merchants importing certain classes of goods by means of " parcel post," in view of the difficulties experienced in obtaining supplies by freight.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONES.

70. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a station in Mahé and gives an excellent service. Seychelles was in telegraphic communication with the outer world throughout the year. There are no public telephones.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

PUBLIC WORKS.

71. Except for the new Workhouse at Plaisance started late in the year, public works were confined to upkeep and repairs of a recurrent nature.

OUTLYING ISLANDS.

72. The post of Visiting Magistrate for the Outlying Islands remained in abeyance throughout the year. Special Visiting Magistrates were however appointed and the following islands were visited :—Poivre, Cosmoledo Group, Assumption and Aldabra Group, St. Pierre, Providence, Alphonse and Marie Louise. The number of labourers on the islands has greatly diminished owing to the stopping of the exploitation of guano deposits on a large scale. The reports of the Special Visiting Magistrates disclosed a satisfactory state of affairs on the islands.

73. A campaign was undertaken during the year to induce owners and lessees of outlying islands to plant maize on all available ground—the land on the islands is said to be most suitable for maize-planting. The campaign has had good effect and cheaper food is now coming in to the benefit of the poorer classes.

General.

74. His Excellency Lieutenant-Colonel C. R. M. O'Brien, C.M.G., left this Colony on the 13th May, 1918, on promotion to the Governorship of Barbados. I was appointed to succeed him and assumed the Government on the 8th October, 1918. During the period between Colonel O'Brien's departure and my arrival, the administration of the Government devolved, under the Letters Patent, on His Honour E. R. Logan, Chief Justice.

75. The effects of the War made themselves severely felt during the year, and 1918 was a bad year for trade. The spirit of the people in the face of their difficulties was commendable.

76. The inhabitants continued to display their loyalty by subscribing to various war funds. In spite of the depression in trade generally, "Our Day," 1918, was a record one, no less than Rs.9,500 having been collected. This amount was very creditable and was not collected without much privation on the part of many of the subscribers.

77. The Armistice was celebrated with much enthusiasm. The spontaneity of the rejoicings on November 11th, 1918, and on the succeeding days was most gratifying.

78. The future prosperity of the Colony depends on our ability to export our produce regularly and cheaply to the European markets. This Colony is cut off from the world and must be afforded shipping facilities or its economic and financial position will go from bad to worse. A considerable quantity of coprah and other produce have been shipped this year and there are signs—slow but sure—of the gradual return of normal times. The price of living is slowly going down.

EUSTACE FIENNES, Bart., Lt.-Col.,
Governor.

2nd June, 1919.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	,,
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917–1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	,,
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	,,
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	,,
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	,,
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	,,
997	Basutoland	,,
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	,,
1001	Hong Kong	,,
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	1917–1918
1004	Malta	1918–1919

MISCELLEANOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey 1908–9
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908—9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta Percha
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey. 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1061.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1005.)

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No. 1061.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1919.*

FINANCE.

1. The revenue collected was Rs.573,643 (including Rs.100,000 grant from Mauritius) being Rs.139,558 more than the estimated amount and Rs.164,794 more than the revenue of 1918.

2. The expenditure was Rs.626,845 (including Rs.53,776 from sterling depreciation) being Rs.164,561 more than the estimated amount and Rs.185,611 more than the expenditure for the year 1918.

3. The year's transactions, therefore, resulted in a deficit of the sum of Rs.53,202.

4. The year 1919 was a good one for revenue and trade generally as more shipping facilities were obtainable than in 1918. A large stock of coprah of the previous year, *i.e.* 4,329 tons, was exported within the year against the small shipment of 650 tons in 1918. Apart from the gift of Rs.100,000 made by Mauritius to this Colony, the revenue of 1919 was much higher than the revenue collected during the four previous years.

5. The large increase in expenditure as compared with the year 1918 was due to (1) expenditure incurred in the construction of the Fiennes Institute, (2) the sum of Rs.53,776 representing the sterling depreciation having been charged as expenditure.

6. The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last three years.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
1917	446,533	435,560
1918	408,849	441,234
1919	573,643	626,845

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622–37].

7. The assets of the Colony exceeded the liabilities at the 31st December, 1919, by the sum of Rs.74,037. The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue ..	128,490
On account of Savings Bank ..	46,729
	Rs.175,219

Public Debt.

8. The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the Imperial Loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road-making was £9,265.

Trade.

9. The total value of the trade of the Colony was Rs.3,226,693 compared with Rs.1,607,463 last year.

Imports.

10. The value of the imports was Rs.1,125,316 compared with Rs.984,931 in 1918. The increase is due to more shipping facilities having been obtained in 1919.

11. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase in value of Rs.53,795 compared with 1918. The value of the imports from India also shows an increase of Rs.17,846 compared with the value of imports from there in 1918. The value of imports from Mauritius shows an increase of Rs.101,956 as compared with 1918 and is due to specie imported (value Rs.88,000).

Exports.

12. The export trade of the Colony was very satisfactory, the total for 1919 being Rs.2,101,377 showing an increase of Rs.1,478,873 over 1918. The increase is chiefly due to the export of coprah, *i.e.* 4,328 tons valued at Rs.1,445,722 against 650 tons in 1918 for Rs.224,050 ; 12,349 kilos of rubber for Rs.23,463 against 650 kilos for Rs.1,635 in 1918 ; tortoiseshell, 4,034 kilos for Rs.6,265 in 1918 ; essential oils, 26,824 litres for Rs.193,346 against 14,077 litres for Rs.87,882 in 1918.

13. The principal countries of destination of our exports were :—

	Rs.
France	1,113,787
Mauritius	105,584
French Colonies	127,461
United Kingdom ..	705,422

(1845) Wt. 29921/587 2/21 1,250 Harrow. (Gp. 75/1921)

14. The export trade of this Colony with the United Kingdom shows an increase of Rs.656,151 over 1918.

Savings Bank.

15. The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1919, was Rs.101,580, an increase of Rs.6,919 over the previous year's balance.

AGRICULTURE.

16. *Observation on Plants.*—The following economic plants were introduced during the year :—

(*a*) Soft-shelled palm oil seeds from S. Nigeria, 10 per cent. of the seeds germinated.

(*b*) Among other plants Uba sugar-cane from Natal and South India ; ancestral types of sugar-canes, including *Saccharum spontaneum* from the latter country ; Sudan grass ; Rhodes grass and Teosinte from U.S. America.

(*c*) Palmyrah nuts from India.

(*d*) Pineapple seeds from local fruits were successfully grown.

17. *Plants Legislation.*—Ordinance No. 8 of 1919 was passed for the eradication of plant pests. The destruction of breeding grounds of rhinoceros and melitomma beetles and the cleaning of estates are made compulsory.

The sale of licensable produce was regulated by Ordinance No. 7 of 1919 in order to reduce predial larceny.

18. *The Vanilla Industry.*—Vanilla is cultivated at present only in a few spots in South Mahe and Praslin. The crop hardly reached 4 tons for 1919. Researches in connection with the treatment of the disease are in progress. It has been found that the manufacture of coprah and the distillation of essential oils pay better than vanilla culture in the worn-out soils of the colony. Good soils are devoted to coconut culture.

19. *The Coconut Industry.*—Part of the crop for 1918 was exported during 1919 and the amount exported for the year under review is considerably in excess of the crop for previous years.

36,423,072	nuts	for	1919
11,126,687	,,	,,	1918
19,659,143	,,	,,	1917
23,680,965	,,	,,	1916
25,763,042	,,	,,	1915

The quinquennial period 1915–1919 shows little reduction as compared with previous quinquennial periods. The cleaning of estates and the better attention being paid to the treatment of diseases go far to improve the culture of coconuts, which had hitherto been much neglected.

Experiments in the manuring of coconuts are in progress. Cheap manures are obtainable in the form of seaweed, ash from the distillation of essential oils, and guano from the outlying islands.

20. *The Rubber Industry.*—Nineteen times more rubber was exported in 1919 than in 1918, the whole crop for 1919 amounting to 27,260 lb. Para rubber grows slowly but well in many suitable places, but the tapping is badly done although the curing is well understood.

21. *The Essential Oil Industry.*—Forty-four cinnamon-leaf oil distilleries worked during the year under review, producing 24,430 litres, which fetched high prices on the London market. The high prices induced planters to erect more distilleries towards the end of the year. The value of this product is increasing and the industry affords employment for many male and female labourers, who otherwise would have remained idle.

Ambrette seeds are no longer grown owing to the article being produced more cheaply elsewhere.

Ocimum viride oil, produced in the colony experimentally on the recommendation of Professor Dunstan, was found to contain over 50 per cent. of thymol, and the culture of this plant, which grows well as an intercalary crop, is being taken up.

22. *Coffee Culture.*—An attempt is being made by the Government and a few planters to grow Robusta coffee on the hills. The plants in some places made good progress and flowered within 18 months.

23. *The Fibre Enterprise.*—A greater quantity of fibre from *Fourcroya gigantea* is made every year, this fibre being used for making cheap ropes and fishing lines, which were unobtainable during the War. There is no reason why this plant should not be grown extensively on the rocky hillsides of the granitic islands and sisal in the outlying islands, to which these plants are singularly adapted. Coir rope from coconut husks is still made in a factory at Cascade on a small scale.

24. *Insect and Fungus Notes.*—The ravages of the melitomma beetle on coconut trees are still unchecked. Their destruction has been made compulsory by legislation. Scale insects are decidedly on the decrease together with their commensal, the ants. It is believed that the fungus (*Cephalosporium*) attacking scale insects is the principal factor in the destruction of these pests.

Stem-bleeding disease occurs on coconut palms to an enormous extent and the treatment of the diseased trees has been made compulsory under Ordinance No. 8 of 1919. The various leaf-bitten

diseases affecting coconut and other native palms are on the increase and this disease has been included in the schedule of the Ordinance in question.

On one shaddock tree the citrus canker disease was found and the tree was destroyed.

SHIPPING.

25. The total tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared was 131,919 compared with 139,409 the previous year.

Of the 39 ships which entered the port 37 were British, one French and one Norwegian.

LEGISLATION.

26. Thirty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislature in 1919.

The principal Ordinances were No. 13 of 1919, an Ordinance to authorise the establishment of a paper currency in the Colony; No. 26, an Ordinance to provide for a tax on incomes.

EDUCATION.

27. The number of pupils attending the schools of the Colony was 2,226 as compared with 2,217 in 1918. Regular attendance was considerably affected by an epidemic of Spanish influenza in the spring.

The number of grant-in-aid schools examined in 1919 was 20 as compared with 22 in 1918. Eighteen of these are Roman Catholic schools, the remaining two are Church of England schools. In the Roman Catholic schools the average attendance decreased from 63·6 per cent. to 58 per cent., and in the Anglican schools it increased from 70·3 per cent. to 71·4 per cent.

The number of pupils examined was 1,164 as compared with 1,223 in 1918. This represents 70·7 per cent. of all the pupils on the roll as compared with 72·7 per cent. in 1918. The number of pupils returned by the examiner as below standard was 334.

Poverty and indifference still militate against regular attendance. It is difficult to bring pressure on parents to compel them to send their children to school; all attendance being voluntary and therefore spasmodic, numbers fluctuate greatly.

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Victoria Hospital.

28. There were 723 in-patients treated in Victoria Hospital, being 25 less than in 1918; on the other hand the number of patients treated at the dispensaries was 4,739, an increase of 1,156.

Principal Diseases.

29. There was an epidemic of influenza during April and May, which was widespread and affected the majority of the population. The mortality was 115, being about 0·48 per 100 of population.

There was also an epidemic of dengue fever during the earlier months of the year.

It was noticed that the number of cases of lobar pneumonia had considerably increased.

Other Institutions.

30. The number of patients treated in the Maternity Home was 213, the number of babies born was 126.

The Fiennes Institute for Paupers was opened in November. This institution replaces the pauper camp at Round Island, Praslin, and is an immense improvement. The institute can hold 120 inmates.

During the year the lepers were brought from Round Island, Praslin, 35 miles away, to Round Island, Mahe, where they are now comfortably housed in good quarters and are well cared for, the doctor making regular visits to the island.

LUNATIC ASYLUM.

31. The average number of inmates was 22.

JUDICIAL.

32. The criminal statistics remain approximately the same as the previous year's. 1,292 civil cases, however, were entered during the year as compared with 849 the previous year.

There were 2,004 cases and 2,432 persons brought before the Criminal Courts of the Colony compared with 1,996 cases and 2,450 persons in 1918.

POLICE FORCE.

33. The authorised establishment of the police force is 77 and the force is divided between 15 stations. In addition to the above, there are seven men paid by the Gold Coast Government and two men by the Uganda Government, who act as guards in charge of political prisoners from these colonies.

The force is recruited locally, and though the Seychellois does not provide good material for this class of work, I am pleased to say that the standard of discipline has improved, probably owing to the introduction of a European sergeant-major.

There were 3,148 offences of all descriptions reported to the police, in connection with which 2,289 persons were apprehended by the police or summoned to appear before the different courts of the Colony.

PRISONS.

34. The total number of persons undergoing imprisonment during the year was less than during the preceding year ; this year's numbers being 893 men and 275 women as compared with 1,062 men and 276 women in 1918.

This reduction in numbers is to be attributed to the increased amount of work which prisoners are made to perform.

The health of the prisoners was satisfactory and with the exception of an outbreak of Spanish fever, of which there were 102 cases, there was no serious epidemic.

Prison labour is largely used on work of public utility, in the prison itself rope-making, coral carving, stone-breaking, book-binding, and tinsmiths' work are carried on.

The accommodation in the prison is very defective owing to the exceedingly small number of separate cells.

VITAL STATISTICS.

35. The estimated population of the Colony at the end of the year was 24,653—12,257 males and 12,396 females. As compared with the previous year the population showed an increase of 81.

The number of births was 619, being a birth rate of 25·19 per thousand.

There were 414 deaths compared with 418 in 1918, the death rate being 16·84 per thousand. 74 marriages were celebrated, being a decrease of 17 as compared with the previous year.

CLIMATE.

36. The rainfall was considerably higher than in 1918, being 101·03 inches, an increase of 18·24 in. The heaviest fall occurred on 31st January, when 8·28 in. were registered. January was the wettest month and August the driest. Rain fell on 135 days during the year.

MAIL AND POSTAL SERVICE.

37. The revenue amounted to Rs.30,113·77 and the expenditure to Rs.15,547·61, leaving a balance in favour of revenue of Rs.14,566·16.

The mail service was fairly regular during the year.

Mails from all countries abroad were received on 31 occasions and despatched on 46 occasions.

The opportunities to Europe were 18 and from Europe 11.

The rate of postage was increased during the year from ·06 c. to ·12 c. for the first ounce for foreign postage.

Parcel Service.

38. The parcels from and to Europe are received and despatched viâ Bombay.

A new service for direct exchange of parcels with the British East Africa and Uganda Protectorates has started during the year.

No parcels were lost at sea.

The parcels received from abroad amounted to 1,867 and those despatched abroad amounted to 383.

TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE.

39. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a station in Mahe and gives an excellent service. Seychelles was in telegraphic communication with the outside world throughout the year.

There are no public telephones.

PUBLIC WORKS.

40. During the year the "Fiennes Institute" was completed. This institute, which is designed to accommodate 120 persons, replaces the former pauper camp at Round Island, Praslin, and is an immense improvement.

Portions of land for use as cemeteries were acquired at the following places: Anse-aux-Pins, Cascade and Bay St. Anne, Praslin.

A water-tank with a concrete roof was constructed at Mamelles for the storage of rainwater.

The remainder of the work was confined to upkeep and repairs.

The walls of the Council Room were panelled with 50 different sorts of wood, offered to the Government by the land proprietors of the Colony.

GENERAL.

41. There are signs that, with the gradual improvement of shipping facilities, its former prosperity is slowly returning to the Colony.

EUSTACE FIENNES, (Bart.) Lt.-Col.,

Governor.

Government House,
Seychelles,
26*th November*, 1920.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1028	Straits Settlements	1918
1029	Gold Coast	,,
1031	Leeward Islands	1918–1919
1032	Sierra Leone	1918
1033	Bahamas	1918–1919
1034	Gambia	1918
1035	Barbados	1918–1919
1036	Mauritius	1918
1037	St. Vincent	1918–1919
1038	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	,,
1039	St. Helena	1919
1040	Weihaiwei	,,
1041	Nyasaland	1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands	1919
1043	Grenada	,,
1044	Bermuda	,,
1045	Basutoland	1919–1920
1046	Cyprus	,,
1047	Fiji	1919
1048	Straits Settlements	,,
1049	Ceylon	,,
1050	Gibraltar	1919–1920
1051	Somaliland	,,
1052	Zanzibar	1919
1053	Gambia	,,
1054	Uganda	1918–1919
1055	Malta	,,
1056	Swaziland	1919–1920
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1058	Ashanti	1919
1059	Bahamas	1919-1920
1060	British Solomon Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1106.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1920.

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No. 1106.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1920.*

FINANCE.

1. The total revenue collected was Rs.678,596, an increase over 1919 of Rs.104,654. The total expenditure was Rs.615,920, a decrease of Rs.10,924 compared with 1919. The year's transactions, therefore, resulted in an excess of Rs.62,676. Customs Revenue produced Rs.298,193, compared with Rs.207,503 in 1919, an increase of Rs.90,690.

2. The year 1920 proved good for trade generally. Steamship communications with India and Africa were resumed in a regular manner. Merchants' stocks were depleted at the end of 1919, but advantage was taken of the favourable rates of exchange in 1920 to import general merchandise from Europe. This was reflected in the increase of revenue from Customs imports.

3. The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last three years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1918	408,849 ..	441,234
1919	573,643 ..	626,845
1920	678,596 ..	615,920

4. The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1920, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.136,713. The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

On account of general Revenue ..	.. Rs.108,126
On account of Savings Bank ..	.. Rs. 46,729

PUBLIC DEBT.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £8,532. In addition, a sum of Rs.50,000 was borrowed from Mauritius for building an auxiliary schooner.

* Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1911, No. 846 (Cd. 7622–37).

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TRADE.

6. The total value of the trade of the Colony was Rs.2,810,150, compared with Rs.3,326,697 in 1919. This is accounted for by the decreased shipment of coprah, which in 1919 was exceptional, as much of the coprah which should have been shipped in 1918 was carried forward to 1919, owing to shipping difficulties. The shipment of 2,563 tons in 1920 may be regarded as normal.

IMPORTS.

7. The value of the imports was Rs.1,716,408, compared with Rs.1,125,318 in 1919.

8. The imports from the United Kingdom showed an increase in value of Rs.218,059 compared with 1919; the imports from India increased by Rs.262,515.

EXPORTS.

9. The exports were valued at Rs.1,711,955, compared with Rs.2,101,377 in 1919, a decrease of Rs.389,422, which is accounted for solely by the export of coprah becoming normal, as explained in paragraph 6. A remarkable increase in the production of essential oil from cinnamon leaves took place, the total quantity exported being 39,500 litres, compared with 24,400 litres in 1919. The value in 1920 was about Rs.10 per litre, or Rs.395,000.

10. The principal countries of destination of our exports were as under :—

United Kingdom	Rs.764,891
British Possessions	Rs.305,729
France and French Colonies	Rs.636,885

The export trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom shows an increase of Rs.59,000 over that of 1919.

SAVINGS BANK.

11. The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1920, was Rs.82,444, against Rs.101,581 in 1919, being a decrease of Rs.19,137 compared with the previous year's balance.

AGRICULTURE.

12. *The Coconut Industry.*—The crop of coconuts in 1920 reached the estimated figure of 23,159,172 nuts, and was disposed of as follows :—

Nuts exported	95,847
Nuts converted into coprah..	17,943,065
Nuts converted into oil	1,111,260
Nuts consumed locally	4,000,000

This crop compared favourably with the average crop for the last five years. The compulsory cleaning of coconut planta-

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tions, which was introduced in 1919, has been responsible for an increase in the crop for 1920. The attention of small planters has been drawn to the prevalent coconut diseases, and the eradication of these diseases is progressing slowly but satisfactorily. Coconuts were sold locally during the year at the rate of Rs.40 per 1,000 nuts. Coprah was quoted at the average rate of Rs.325 a ton in Europe. The soapmaking industry, in which a considerable quantity of coconut oil is used, was discontinued during the year under review, owing to the difficulty in obtaining soda from abroad.

13. *The Rubber Industry.*—The exportation of rubber during the year amounted to 24,000 lb., as compared with 30,000 lb. exported during the previous year. The local price of this article in 1920 was R1. per kilo.

14. *The Essential Oil Industry.*—Considerable progress was made during the year under review in the distillation of essential oils. The quantity exported during the year was valued at Rs.420,104. Towards the end of the year the market price of cinnamon leaf oil fell from Rs.12 to Rs.4 a kilo., and many distilleries were compelled to close, thus decreasing by about a third the expected total production during the year. The demand for cinnamon leaf oil on the European market practically ceased. This was a severe blow to the industry, in which over 1,500 labourers were engaged.

15. *The Vanilla Industry.*—Three tons of vanilla were exported during the year 1920, as compared with four tons in the previous year. The crop for 1920 is the smallest ever produced in the Colony. The vanilla vines in this Colony suffer severely from disease. Researches in connection with the treatment of this disease are in progress, and a complete set of vines has been forwarded to the Bureau of Mycology showing the beginning of the disease at the root. A report on these specimens is expected to arrive shortly.

16. *The Coffee Industry.*—It is estimated that more than 3,000 Robusta coffee trees were planted out on the Forêt Noire and Morne Blanc Crown Lands about three years ago. The trees appear to be in a very promising condition, and there are indications of a good crop next year.

17. *Reafforestation.*—The work of reafforestation on the bare lands of the Colony, especially along the banks of the rivers, has received attention, and a number of trees of all kinds were set out during the year under review on the Le Niol Crown Land.

FISHERIES.

18. The majority of the natives of Seychelles are born sailors and skilful seamen, and the greater number of families living on the sea-shore own their own small fishing boat. Fish and turtles

(*Chelonia mydas*) are plentiful, and large quantities are consumed locally. The average daily consumption of fish in the town of Victoria only, during 1920, amounted to 1,250 kilos. Schooners of from 20 to 90 tons bring up salted fish and live turtles in large quantities from the outlying islands. Before the War, salt fish was exported in very large quantities to Zanzibar, Réunion, Mauritius, and Madagascar. In 1915, 40,000 kilos. were exported to these places, the estimated value being Rs.8,500. This trade has, however, greatly diminished since the War, and in 1920 only 1,275 kilos. were exported. The fishing industry is capable of far greater development, and there seems to be no reason why Seychelles should not be able to send to Mauritius and other adjacent Colonies at profitable rates a constant supply of salted and pickled fish.

The number of hawksbill turtle (*Chelonia imbricata*) obtained during the year under review was most satisfactory; the local prices for tortoise-shell were good, varying between Rs.22 and Rs. 25 per lb., and the quantity exported (mostly to the United Kingdom) was 1,280 kilos., valued at Rs.55,885. The giant land tortoise on the Aldabra Islands continues to be carefully preserved both at Aldabra and elsewhere.

SHIPPING.

19. The total tonnage of merchant shipping entered and cleared was 166,798, compared with 131,919 the previous year. Of the 49 ships which entered the port, 43 were British, 4 Norwegian, and 2 Dutch.

LEGISLATION.

20. Thirteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during 1920. The principal Ordinances were No. 1, an Ordinance designed to restrain profiteering, and No. 3, which made it lawful for the local Marine Board to issue to qualified persons Certificates of Competency as Masters and Mates, enabling them to take any vessel registered in the Colony on any voyage in the Indian Ocean and Mozambique Channel within the following limits :—Between the Equator and thirty degrees south latitude and between the East Coast of Africa and eighty degrees longitude east of Greenwich. These certificates have been recognised by the Union Government of South Africa, and by the Governments of Kenya, Tanganyika, and Mauritius.

EDUCATION.

21. *Reorganisation of the Education System.*—The revised scheme came into operation in July, 1920. The Government ceased to maintain a Secondary School, all Secondary Education being left to voluntary bodies. The Government Free School for Primary Education was retained and expanded. Government Exhibitions and Scholarships were established by which

suitable pupils, either privately educated or from Primary Schools, might pass into Secondary Schools and thence to Universities or other Teaching Institutions in the Empire. A Director of Education was appointed with wider powers than those formerly possessed by the Inspector of Schools. Provision was also made for awarding the Grant to Grant-in-Aid Schools in accordance with the principles followed in England. Their curriculum and syllabus were also brought up to date.

Schools and School Attendance.—The number of Grant-in-Aid Schools was 20, 18 Roman Catholic and 2 Church of England. The total number of children on school registers in 1920 was 2,282. Of these, 275 were at the Government School, 1,674 were Grant-in-Aid pupils, and 333 were receiving secondary education. The average attendance for 1920 was (1) Government Schools 187, or nearly 70 per cent.; (2) Grant-in-Aid Schools 1,057, or 63 per cent.; (3) Secondary Schools 250, or 76 per cent. Education is not compulsory.

Finance.—The total grant was Rs.11,214, and the total expenditure Rs.29,505.

Government Institutions.

22. *Hospital and Dispensaries.*—634 persons, including 468 men and 166 women, were treated at the Victoria Hospital during 1920. This shows a decrease of 89, as compared with the previous year. Three thousand two hundred and three people received treatment at the Government Dispensaries, a decrease of 1,536 as compared with the year 1919, which was an abnormal year owing to the influenza epidemic.

There was an epidemic of whooping-cough towards the end of 1920; otherwise the public health was good.

23. *Maternity Home.*—There were 217 patients admitted, and 151 babies were born.

24. *Leper Camp.*—The camp in its new situation at Round Island, Mahé, is a great improvement. There were seven inmates during the year.

25. *Lunatic Asylum.*—The number of patients treated was 23.

26. *Fiennes Institute.*—I cannot speak too highly of the benefit of this Institution where aged paupers are looked after and enabled to end their days in peace and comfort when too old to maintain themselves. The average number of inmates during the year was between 90 and 100.

Judicial.

27. The criminal statistics remain approximately the same as the previous year.

One thousand one hundred and sixty-one civil cases, however, were entered during the year, as compared with 1292 in 1919.

Two thousand one hundred and seventy-five cases were brought before the Courts of the Colony, which was practically the same number as the previous year.

POLICE FORCE.

28. The authorised strength of the Police Force was 81, and the Force was divided between 15 stations. This establishment does not, however, include one corporal and six men paid by the Gold Coast Government and two men paid by the Uganda Government, who act as guards in charge of the political prisoners from these Colonies. The force is recruited locally, and, in spite of the indifferent material available, I am pleased to say that the standard of discipline still continues to show signs of improvement. Two thousand four hundred and sixty-nine offences of all descriptions were reported to the Police during the year, in connection with which 1,771 persons were apprehended by the Police or summoned to appear before the different Courts of the Colony.

PRISONS.

29. The number of persons undergoing imprisonment during the year 1920 has shown a considerable decrease; 654 men and 195 women were convicted during the year, as compared with 893 men and 275 women convicted in 1919, a decrease of 239 men and 80 women. This reduction shows that the standard of discipline in the prison has been well maintained. The monthly average was 113·6 men and 20·4 women. There were no alterations made during the year regarding accommodation or staff.

On the whole the health of the prisoners was satisfactory. As in previous years, prison labour was largely used on work of public utility.

The efficiency of the prison system would be greatly increased if a larger number of separate cells were provided.

VITAL STATISTICS.

30. The estimated population of the Colony at the end of the year was 24,811—12,282 males and 12,529 females—showing an increase of 158 as compared with the previous year's figures.

The number of births was 735, being a birth-rate of 29·81 per thousand.

There were 363 deaths, compared with 414 in 1919, the death-rate being 14·72 per thousand. One hundred and nine marriages were celebrated, as compared with 74 the previous year.

Climate.

31. The rainfall was probably slightly less than for the previous year. Owing to the absence of a Port Officer, however, no records were kept during three months of the year, and consequently no reliable statistics are available. The heaviest rainfall occurred on the 30th of January, when a fall of 9·47 in. was recorded. January was the wettest month, the rainfall being 32·63 in. August was the driest month.

Mail and Postal Service.

32. The revenue amounted to Rs.39,496 and the expenditure to Rs.19,177, leaving a balance in favour of revenue of Rs.20,319.

The mail service during the year was good. Mails from all countries abroad were received on 32 occasions and despatched on 46 occasions.

Mails were despatched to the United Kingdom on 25 occasions and received on 14 occasions.

The prepaid rates of postage for the United Kingdom and places within the British Empire, including Egypt and the British Postal Agencies in Morocco and China, were fixed in June at 9 cents instead of 12 cents for the first ounce and 6 cents for each additional ounce or fraction thereof.

Parcel Post Service.

33. The parcels from Europe are despatched from London *via* Bombay.

The despatch from Seychelles to Europe is effected in two ways, *via* Bombay and Mombasa. Both services are carried out by the British India Steamship Navigation Company. The parcels received from abroad amounted to 3,884, and those despatched abroad to 510.

Telegraph and Telephone.

34. The Eastern Telegraph Company maintains a station at Mahé, and gives a satisfactory service. Seychelles was in telegraphic communication with the outside world throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

Public Works.

35. During the year the lepers were removed from Round Island, Praslin, to Round Island, Mahé, necessitating the construction of a guardian's house, four huts and a kitchen. This is a great improvement. The lepers are now under direct medical supervision and better cared for in every way.

Some new cells were constructed at the Central Police Station.

The floor of the Council Room was removed and a parquet floor laid.

A parcel store room, which was urgently required, was constructed at the Central Post Office.

The remainder of the work was confined to upkeep and repairs. The total amount expended by the Public Works Department during the year was Rs.10,450.

GENERAL.

36. The Revenue during the year 1920 was abnormally high, principally owing to the large increase in Customs receipts. This was due to the fact that merchants were renewing their stocks, which had become exhausted during the War. This large increase in import duties is not, however, being maintained this year, but there are signs that the reopening of the guano industry will compensate to some extent for any diminution of Customs receipts.

PHILIP B. PETRIDES,

Administrator.

Government House,
Seychelles,
12*th November*, 1921.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	1919
1070	British Honduras	,,
1071	Hong Kong	,,
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	1919
1076	Falkland Islands	,,
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	,,
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	,,
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	1918–1919
1098	Nigeria	1920
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute.	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the islands by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1146.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1106.)

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No. 1146.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1921.*

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. lat. 4° and 5° ; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 90.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and extremely healthy, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands are Praslin (9,700 acres) ; Silhouette (4,900 acres) ; La Digue (2,500 acres) ; Curieuse (900 acres) ; Felicité (800 acres) ; North Island (525 acres) ; St. Anne (500 acres) ; Providence (500 acres) ; Frigate (500 acres) ; Denis (340 acres) ; Cerf (290 acres) ; and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles :— The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. Francois Island, St. Pierre Island, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coetivy, Farquhar and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, in 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the Islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV., from 1754 to 1756.

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622–37]

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During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became, after Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge, had left, the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

CLIMATE.

In spite of its proximity to the equator, Seychelles is reputed to be one of the most healthy of the British possessions within the tropics.

Its climate is mild and equable. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F. while at night the temperature seldom drops below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent all the year round.

The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the Southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

POPULATION.

At the census of April 24th, 1921, the population was returned as 24,523 (11,974 males and 12,549 females) showing an increase of 1,832 on the previous census of 1911.

There were 119 marriages as compared with 109 in 1920.

The births in 1921 numbered 709, which corresponds to a rate of 28·91 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 392, or 15·98 per 1,000, which is slightly higher than the previous year. This was partially due to an epidemic of whooping cough which caused many deaths among young children. There was also a slight influenza epidemic.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected was Rs.619,753, a decrease as compared with 1920 of Rs.58,843. The total expenditure was Rs.618,883, an increase of Rs.2,963 compared with 1920. Customs Revenue produced Rs.232,786, compared with Rs.298,193 in 1920, which accounts for the fall in the total revenue.

Trade during the year 1921 cannot be said to have been good, the price of the two principal commodities exported, i.e., copra and cinnamon leaf oil, both being low, whereas the price of imported merchandise had not fallen in proportion. The export of guano was below normal.

The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last three years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1919	573,643 ..	626,844
1920	678,596 ..	615,920
1921	619,753 ..	618,883

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1921, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.137,584. The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue	82,740
On account of Savings Bank	46,729

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £7,779. A further sum of Rs.50,000 is owed also to Mauritius. This was borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary schooner.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1921, was Rs.88,442, an increase of Rs.6,000 compared with 1920.

Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony was Rs.2,797,366, compared with Rs.2,810,150 in 1920. The shipment of copra was normal, but there was a decrease of approximately 10,000 litres in the export of essential oil from cinnamon leaves.

Imports.

The value of the imports was Rs.1,348,063, compared with Rs.1,716,408 in 1920.

The imports from the United Kingdom showed a decrease in value of Rs.50,630 compared with 1920, and the imports from India decreased by Rs.322,759.

EXPORTS.

The exports were valued at Rs.1,668,615 compared with Rs.1,721,117 in 1920, a decrease of Rs.52,502.

The principal countries of destination of exports were as under :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	493,879
British Possessions	398,608
France and French Colonies	587,558

The export trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom shews a decrease of Rs.271,012, principally due to the decrease in the export of cinnamon leaf oil.

AGRICULTURE.

The Coconut Industry.—The crop of coconuts for the year under review was 26,362,965, an increase of over one million nuts as compared with the previous year. The compulsory cleaning of the plantations commenced in 1919 has been a beneficial factor in the increase of the crop.

Coconuts sold locally during the year at an average price of Rs.35 to Rs.40 per thousand, while copra fetched about Rs.375 per ton.

The beetle known as *Melitomma insulare* is doing considerable damage to coconut trees, and planters have been urged to co-operate in its eradication. Some cases of "Little Leaf" disease also occur.

Rubber.—The cultivation of rubber has been practically abandoned owing to the low price obtainable. On many estates the trees have been cut down and used as firewood.

Vanilla.—The low price of this commodity, together with the diseases to which it is subject in this Colony, has caused vanilla, which at one time was the most important export from Seychelles, to become the least important. The crop for the year of 1,358 kilos was the lowest on record, but there are signs that the interest in this culture is reviving.

Essential Oils.—The distillation of cinnamon and clove leaves continues to be pursued energetically. There are now about 50 stills in operation and over 2,000 persons, mostly women and children, are employed.

The local price of cinnamon oil was low until September, when it rose to Rs.10 per kilo. That of clove leaf oil averaged Rs.9 per kilo throughout the year.

The export during the year amounted to 38,024 kilos, as compared with 42,659 kilos the previous year. Amber seeds (*Hibiscus abelmoschus*) are also grown by some planters, but are not distilled locally owing to the difficulty of preserving the oil.

The export during the year amounted to 2,012 kilos.

Reafforestation.—The work of reafforestation has received attention; 2,500 clove trees and 5,000 cedar trees (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) were planted. Large numbers of Eucalyptus trees also were planted towards the end of the year.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of this Colony are born sailors and the number who fish to earn a living is consequently considerable. Fish and turtle were plentiful during the year. The estimated quantity of fish consumed locally was over 1½ million lb. and that of turtle meat 24,000 lb.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying Islands by small coasting boats of 20 to 90 tons, and on arrival in Victoria are kept in turtle ponds until required.

The following articles from the outlying islands were exported in 1921 :—

	Estimated value. Rs.
Salt fish, 9,155 kilos	2,259
Shark fins, 438 kilos	483
Tortoise-shell, 1,107 kilos	38,797
Calipee, 1,810 kilos	3,660

The quantity of salt fish exported was considerably greater than last year, but it is still only about a quarter of the export before the War when large quantities were exported to Zanzibar Reunion, Madagascar, and Mauritius.

The export of guano during the year was below the normal, only 6,419 tons being exported.

There is some prospect of a revival of the whaling industry Masters of local boats report that they have from time to time seen considerable numbers of whales in the vicinity. Any revival of the industry would be welcomed locally.

Legislation.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were No. 3, "An Ordinance to provide for the enforcement of Maintenance Orders" and No. 4, "An Ordinance to provide for the enforcement of British Judgments in the Colony and *vice versa*."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 22 Grant-in-Aid Schools at which free elementary education is given. Eighteen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,524 children with an average attendance of 1,002; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England Schools, attended by 221 pupils, with an average attendance of 149.

The percentage attendance was 65·9.

At the Victoria (Government) School, education is free, but there is also a paying branch where nominal fees are charged.

Technical instruction in woodwork, and instruction in physical exercises and in drill are given at the Victoria School. The number of pupils on the roll was 265.

There are two Seconday Schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 195 and 145 pupils respectively ; fees are charged.

At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local and London Matriculation Examinations ; 37 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Of these 18 got a Preliminary, 11 a Junior and 4 a Senior Certificate

Twenty candidates (girls) were successfully offered for the Higher Education of girls.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, Exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.34,249·54, of which Rs.12,000 was a grant-in-aid to Primary Schools.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are suitable for motor traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.49,653 and the expenditure to Rs.18,569. The mail service during the year was good, mails being despatched to Europe and to Mauritius and Madagascar on 48 occasions.

The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once a month and on their return journey every other month. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

In July, 1921, the prepaid rates for Imperial postage were increased from 9 cents to 12 cents.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a satisfactory service. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

J. BYRNE, *Brigadier-General,*
Governor.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page.

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1109	British Guiana	1920
1110	British Honduras	,,
1111	Malta	1920–1921
1112	Uganda	1920
1113	Leeward Islands	1920–1921
1114	Nigeria	1921
1115	Mauritius	1920
1116	Jamaica	1921
1117	Cyprus	,,
1118	Weihaiwei	,,
1119	Gold Coast	1920
1120	Gambia	,,
1121	Gambia	1921
1122	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	1920–1921
1123	British Guiana	1921
1124	Grenada	,,
1125	Zanzibar	,,
1126	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1127	Gibraltar	,,
1128	St. Vincent	,,
1129	St. Helena	,,
1130	Fiji	,,
1131	Basutoland	1921–1922
1132	Bermuda	1921
1133	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1921–1922
1134	Barbados	,,
1135	Trinidad	1921
1136	British Honduras	,,
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1139	Hongkong	,,
1140	Straits Settlements	,,
1141	St. Lucia	,,
1142	Ashanti	,,
1143	Jamaica	,,
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1191.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1146.)

LONDON:
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No. 1191.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1922.*

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. lat. 4° and 5° ; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 90.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and extremely healthy, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands are Praslin (9,700 acres) ; Silhouette (4,900 acres) ; La Digue (2,500 acres) ; Curieuse (900 acres) ; Felicité (800 acres) ; North Island (525 acres) ; St. Anne (500 acres) ; Providence (500 acres) ; Frigate (500 acres) ; Denis (340 acres) ; Cerf (290 acres) ; and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles :— The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. Francois Island, St. Pierre Island, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coetivy, Farquhar and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, in 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV., from 1754 to 1756.

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914. No. 846 [Cd. 7622-37]

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During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became, after Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge, had left, the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

CLIMATE.

In spite of its proximity to the equator, Seychelles is reputed to be one of the most healthy of the British possessions within the tropics.

Its climate is mild and equable. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F. while at night the temperature seldom drops below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent all the year round.

The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the Southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

POPULATION.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1922, was estimated at 25,176, an increase of 653 since the 24th April, 1921, on which date the last census was taken.

There were 108 marriages as compared with 119 in 1921

The births in 1922 numbered 753, which corresponds to a rate of 30·47 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 344, or 13·92 per 1,000. This is the lowest local record for many years and lower than any recorded in the United Kingdom during the last 20 years. This exceptionally low death-rate is due to the fact that there were no epidemics of any infectious or contagious disease during the year.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.644,006, an increase as compared with 1921 of Rs.24,253. The expenditure, exclusive of a sum of Rs.15,000 loan expenditure in connection with the New Hospital, totalled Rs.521,482, a decrease of Rs.97,401 as compared with the previous year. Customs revenue produced Rs.283,004, compared with Rs.232,786 in 1921.

The year 1922 proved good for trade generally. This was reflected in the increase in revenue derived from Customs Duties. The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last three years.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1920	678,596 ..	615,920
1921	619,753 ..	618,883
1922	644,006 ..	521,482

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1922, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.245,109. The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue	180,989
On account of Savings Bank	65,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £7,005 3s. 4d. A further sum of Rs.50,000 is also owing to Mauritius. This was borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary schooner.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1922, was Rs.108,128, an increase of Rs.19,686 compared with 1921.

Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony was Rs.3,650,370, compared with Rs.2,797,366 in 1921. The total exports of copra and essential oils both showed a substantial increase.

Imports.

The value of the imports was Rs.1,779,839, compared with Rs.1,348,063 in 1921.

The imports from the United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs.279,228 compared with the previous year, and the imports from India increased by Rs.136,523, partly owing to the fact that sugar is now being imported from India instead of from Mauritius.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs.1,870,531, compared with Rs.1,668,615 in 1921.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were as follows :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	742,799
British Possessions	252,957
France and French Colonies	725,355

The export trade of the Colony with the United Kingdom shows an increase of Rs.266,410, partly due to the increased export of essential oils.

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 2,986 tons as compared with 2,579 tons in 1921. Just over half a million coconuts were also exported. Coconuts sold locally during the year at an average price of Rs.35 to Rs.40 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.365 per ton.

Vanilla.—The low price of this commodity, together with the root disease to which it is subject in this Colony, has caused vanilla, which at one time was the most important export from Seychelles, to become the least important. The export for 1922 amounted to 2,857 kilos, more than double the amount exported in 1921. This shows that interest in the industry is reviving.

Rubber.—Owing to the slump in the rubber industry throughout the world, the cultivation of rubber has practically been abandoned.

Essential Oils.—The distillation of cinnamon leaves continues to be pursued energetically. This industry is now the second most important in the Colony.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 43,366 litres as compared with 29,000 litres in 1921. The local price of cinnamon oil averaged Rs.7·50 per kilo throughout the year.

Clove oil also is distilled, and recently increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli.

Towards the end of the year it was decided to reorganise the Agricultural Department under a Director of Agriculture, who arrived in the Colony in March, 1923.

For the first few months of the year the Colony had the advantage of the presence of Mr. G. G. Auchinleck, M.Sc., A.I.C., who was seconded from the Ceylon Department of Agriculture and arrived in Seychelles at the end of October, 1921. Mr. Auchinleck's visit was carried out at the expense of the Imperial Government on the recommendation of the Colonial Research Committee.

The visit was of great benefit to the Colony and gave a much needed stimulus to agriculture. Mr. Auchinleck issued many interesting reports and pamphlets and visited the majority of estates in Mahé and the outlying islands.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Estimated value. Rs.
Tortoise-shell, 1,242 kilos	50,938
Calipee, 1,280 kilos	4,112
Salt fish, 23,630 kilos	2,797
Shark fins, 380 kilos	800
Trepangs, 1,485 kilos	564

The quantity of salt fish exported is still a great deal less than was exported before the War, when large quantities were shipped to Madagascar, Zanzibar, Mauritius and Reunion. The export of guano during 1922 amounted to 12,773 tons, the declared value being Rs.376,690.

It is hoped that the near future may witness a revival of the whaling industry, which was discontinued in these waters at the beginning of the War. Such a revival would be welcomed locally.

LEGISLATION.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were No. 2 " An Ordinance to facilitate the Reciprocal Enforcement of judgments and awards in this Colony and in the United Kingdom and other parts of His Majesty's dominions and territories under His Majesty's protection," and No. 3 " An Ordinance to facilitate the enforcement in this Colony of Maintenance Orders made in the United Kingdom and other parts of His Majesty's dominions and territories under His Majesty's protection and vice versa."

EDUCATION.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 22 Grant-in-Aid Schools at which free elementary education is given. Eighteen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,579 children with an average attendance of 1,064 ; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England, attended by 213 pupils, with an average attendance of 148.

The percentage attendance was 67·6.

There are also two small Roman Catholic schools, one at Port Glaud with 16 pupils and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 30 pupils. The latter school was opened in July, 1922. Both are unaided.

At the Government Schools (Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School) education is free, but there is also a paying branch at the Victoria School where nominal fees are charged. Technical instruction in woodwork and instruction in physical exercises and in drill are given at the Victoria School. The number of pupils on the register was 320.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 188 and 136 pupils respectively ; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local and London Matriculation Examinations ; 37 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examination, of whom 18 got a Preliminary, 12 a Junior and one a Senior Certificate. Twenty-two candidates (Girls) were also offered for the Higher Education of girls : of these 17 passed.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.30,780, of which Rs.11,400 was a grant-in-aid to Primary Schools.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are suitable for motor traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.29,319 and the expenditure to Rs.17,952. The mail service during the year was good, and mails were despatched on 56 occasions.

The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once a month and on their return journey every other month. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. The importance of this station was considerably increased during the year by the laying of direct cables between this Colony and Aden and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

J. BYRNE, *Brigadier-General,*
Governor.

Colonial Reports, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	,,
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	,,
1160	Gambia	,,
1161	New Hebrides	1921–1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	,,
1164	St. Helena	,,
1165	Sierra Leone	,,
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
1167	Bermuda	,,
1168	Grenada	,,
1169	St. Lucia	,,
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	,,
1173	Gibraltar	,,
1174	British Guiana	,,
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	,,
1177	St. Vincent	,,
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	,,
1181	British Honduras	,,
1182	Uganda	,,
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
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92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1236.

SEYCHELLES

Report for 1923

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1191.)

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1925.

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SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1923.*

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 90.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); St. Anne (500 acres); Providence (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles:—

The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. Francois Island, St. Pierre Island, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Cöetivy, Farquhar and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, in 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622-37].

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Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV., from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became, after Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge, had left, the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

CLIMATE.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy, and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F. but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year.

The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

POPULATION.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, was estimated at 25,700, an increase of 1,177 since the census of 1921.

There were 108 marriages, the same number as in 1922.

The births in 1923 numbered 771, which corresponds to a rate of 30·62 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 297, or 11·79 per 1,000. This low death-rate constitutes a record and is partly due to the fact that no epidemics of any infectious or contagious disease occurred during the year.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.683,979, an increase as compared with 1922 of Rs.39,973. Customs revenue produced Rs.307,861 compared with Rs.283,004 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.597,940.

Although the total value of the trade of the Colony showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, the volume of trade was nevertheless satisfactory.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last three years.

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1921	619,753 ..	618,883
1922	644,006 ..	536,482
*1923	683,979 ..	597,940

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.331,148.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue	225,556
On account of Savings Bank	65,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £6,210 1s. 3d. A further sum of Rs.50,000 is also

*These figures do not include expenditure on the new hospital which is voted from surplus balances.

owing to Mauritius. This was borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1924 Estimates for the repayment of Rs.10,000 of this loan.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on 31st December, 1923, was Rs.125,881, an increase of Rs.17,753 compared with 1922.

Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.3,422,958, as compared with Rs.3,508,030 in 1922. The total export of copra showed a substantial increase, while the export of essential oils showed a slight decrease.

Imports.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,643,059, compared with Rs.1,710,899 in 1922. The imports from the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.132,152, while the imports from India increased by Rs.18,208.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs.1,779,899, compared with Rs.1,797,131 in 1922.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	697,216
British Possessions	297,151
France and French Colonies	756,697

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 3,475 tons as compared with 2,986 tons in 1922. Only about a quarter of a million coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with half a million the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs.48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.400 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon [illegible] continued energetically, and increasing interest has bee[illegible]n in the distillation of patchouli, basilic and lemon grass

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 38,415 litres valued at Rs.363,780.

The export in 1922 amounted to 13,366 litres.

Vanilla.—The low price of vanilla, together with the root disease to which it has been subject in this Colony, has caused what was at one time the most valuable export from Seychelles to become the least important. Very little vanilla was exported during the year, but it is anticipated, that the higher prices commanded by this commodity at the present time will stimulate its production in 1924. It is also satisfactory to note that the vines now planted are withstanding the root disease.

Rubber.—Owing to the slump in the rubber industry throughout the world, the production of rubber has been practically abandoned and many trees have been cut down for firewood.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Rs.
Tortoise shell, 1,156 kilos	45,863
Calipee, 6,750 kilos	20,610
Salt fish, 27,297 kilos	6,249
Shark meat (dried), 4,675 kilos	1,330
Shark fins, 648 kilos	730
Trepangs, 1,050 kilos	525

The quantity of salt fish exported is still a great deal less than was exported before the War, when large quantities were shipped to Madagascar, Zanzibar, Mauritius and Reunion.

The export of guano during the year amounted to 9,783 tons, the declared value being Rs.192,140.

Negotiations were opened with a large whaling company with a view to the revival of the whaling industry in these waters. The negotiations unfortunately broke down after all the details had been settled.

LEGISLATION.

Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

The principal Ordinances were:—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Licences."

No. 2. "An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Law relating to certain Taxes on Properties."

No. 4. "An Ordinance to amend the Seychelles Penal Code, 1904."

No. 5. "An Ordinance to regulate the admission to practice as a Barrister or Attorney in Seychelles."

No. 7. "An Ordinance to impose a Tax on Incomes and to regulate the collection thereof."

No. 9. "An Ordinance to facilitate the raising of money on loan by way of privilege on crops in order to enable owners and others to carry on the cultivation of their land and to realise their crops."

No. 10. "An Ordinance to provide for the constitution, registration, control and encouragement of Co-operative Credit Societies."

EDUCATION.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 22 Grant-in-Aid Schools at which free elementary education is given. Eighteen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,740 children with an average attendance of 1,223; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England, attended by 220 pupils, with an average attendance of 142.

The average attendance has increased from 67·3 per cent. to 71·6 per cent. in the Roman Catholic Schools and decreased from 69·9 per cent. to 64·5 per cent. in the Church of England Schools.

There are also two small unaided Roman Catholic schools, one at Port Glaud with 16 pupils and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 45 pupils. The latter school was opened in July, 1922.

At the Government Schools (Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School) education is free, but there is also a paying branch at the former where nominal fees are charged. Technical instruction in woodwork and instruction in physical exercises and in drill are given at the Victoria School. The number of pupils on the register was 266.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government Schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 202 and 141 pupils respectively ; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local and London Matriculation Examinations ; 36 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examination, of whom 17 obtained a Preliminary, 10 a Junior and five a School Certificate. Eighteen candidates (girls) were also offered for the Higher Education of girls : of these 17 passed.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.29,970, of which Rs.13,535 was a grant-in-aid to Primary Schools.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are suitable for motor traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.24,375 and the expenditure to Rs.21,655. The mail service during the year was good, and mails were despatched on 43 occasions.

The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once a month and on their return journey every other month. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being direct cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

J. BYRNE, *Brigadier-General,*
Governor.

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1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	1923–1924
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	1923
1214	Fiji	,,
1215	British Honduras	,,
1216	New Hebrides	,,
1217	Gibraltar	,,
1218	Jamaica	,,
1219	Sierra Leone	,,
1220	Uganda	,,
1221	Grenada	,,
1222	British Guiana	,,
1223	St. Vincent	,,
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1225	Barbados	1923–1924
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No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
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84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 1272.

SEYCHELLES

Report for 1924

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No. 1272.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1924.*

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of south latitude 4° and 5°. The estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); St. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622-37]

(20153) Wt. 17202/1278 500 11/25 Harrow G.94.

of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV, from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's Ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formerly taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897 the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but though the difference in temperature is only slight living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, was estimated at 25,847, an increase of 1,324 since the census of 1921.

There were 178 marriages, or 70 more than in 1923.

The births in 1924 numbered 723, which corresponds to a rate of 27·97 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 378, or 14·62 per 1,000.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.755,758, an increase as compared with 1923 of Rs.71,779. Customs revenue produced Rs.331,571, as compared with Rs.308,426 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.659,452·63.

The year was a good one as regards trade. Although imports decreased by Rs.7,279 when compared with 1923, exports on the other hand show the substantial increase of Rs.259,711.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last four years.

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1921	619,753	618,883
1922	644,006	536,482
1923	683,979	597,940
1924	755,758	659,452

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.427,454.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

On account of General Revenue ...	Rs.183,196
On account of Savings Bank ...	Rs.65,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road-making was £5,393 1s. 9*d*. There is also a balance of Rs.40,000 still owing to Mauritius out of the sum of Rs.50,000 borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1925 Estimates for the repayment of Rs.5,000 of this balance.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1924, was Rs.143,692, an increase of Rs.17,811 compared with 1923.

Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.3,675,390, as compared with Rs.3,422,958 in 1923.

Imports.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,635,780, compared with Rs.1,643,059 in 1923. The imports from the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.111,353; the imports from India also decreased by Rs.21,355. On the other hand the imports from France and from French possessions increased by Rs.26,936 and Rs.81,380 respectively.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,039,610, compared with Rs.1,779,899 in 1923. The exports to the United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs.345,135.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	1,034,261
British Possessions	366,263
France and French Colonies	349,666

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 3,184 tons as compared with 3,475 tons in 1923. Only about 178,000 coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with 209,000 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs.48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.350 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically, and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, and lemon grass oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 34,612 litres valued at Rs.324,887.

The export in 1923 amounted to 38,115 litres.

Vanilla.—As was anticipated the higher prices commanded by this commodity have stimulated its production. 1,429 kilos valued at Rs.57,744 were exported in 1924 as against 692 kilos valued at Rs.7,682 in 1923.

Rubber.—Owing to the slump in the rubber industry throughout the world, the production of rubber has been practically abandoned and many trees have been cut down for firewood.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Green turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Kilos.	*Rs.*
Tortoise shell	1,505½	76,271
Calipee	9,167	21,812
Salt fish	10,050	1,990
Shark fins	295	225
Trepangs	2,558	1,656

The quantity of salt fish exported is still a great deal less than was exported before the War, when large quantities were shipped to Madagascar, Zanzibar, Mauritius, and Reunion.

The export of guano during the year amounted to 13,800 tons, the declared value being Rs.404,170.

Legislation.

Five Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to amend the Barristers and Attorneys Ordinance, 1923."

No. 2. "An Ordinance to amend the Paper Currency Ordinance, 1919."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 21 Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Seventeen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,878 children with an average attendance of 1,293; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England, attended by 323 pupils with an average attendance of 237·8.

The average attendance has decreased from 71·6 per cent. to 68·8 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools and increased from 64·5 per cent. to 73·6 per cent. in the Church of England schools.

There are also four small unaided schools: two Roman Catholic, one at Port Glaud with 29 pupils and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 45 pupils; two Church of England, one at Bel Ombre with 10 pupils and one at Anse Royale with a few pupils.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp school were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 225 and 171 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations; 35 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examination, of whom 10 obtained a Preliminary, 13 a Junior and 5 a School Certificate. Twenty candidates (girls) were also offered for the higher education of girls: there were no failures.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.28,852, of which Rs.19,814 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are suitable for motor traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.36,817 and the expenditure to Rs.15,215. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 42 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being direct cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony.

J. L. DEVAUX,
Administrator.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1329.

SEYCHELLES.

Report for 1925.

For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1236 and 1272 (Price 6d. and 3d. respectively.)

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No. 1329.

SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1925.*

Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of South latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the Dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); St. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also Dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The Islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the Islands in the name

*Sketch Maps will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 846 [Cd. 7622–37]

of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV, from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's Ship "Orpheus."

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a Dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897 the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was erected into a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus, during the whole year, the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, was estimated at 26,185, an increase of 1,662 since the census of 1921.

(25918) Wt. 24350/1621 500 3/27 Harrow G.94.

There were 201 marriages, or 23 more than in 1924.

The births in 1925 numbered 733, which corresponds to a rate of 27·99 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 392, or 14·96 per thousand.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.770,761, an increase as compared with 1924 of Rs. 15,003. Customs revenue produced Rs.390,082, compared with Rs.331,468 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.657,014.

The year was a good one as regards trade. The imports and exports show an increase of Rs.160,330 and Rs.467,921 respectively when compared with 1924.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last four years.

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1922	644,006	536,482
1923	683,979	597,940
1924	755,758	659,452
1925	770,761	657,014

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.541,201.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

On account of General Revenue ...	Rs.143,699
On account of Savings Bank ...	Rs.65,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road-making was £4,553 12*s.* 11*d.* There is also a balance of Rs.35,000 still owing to Mauritius out of the sum of Rs.50,000 borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1926 Estimates for the repayment of Rs.10,000 of this balance.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1925, was Rs.180,234, an increase of Rs.36,542 as compared with 1924.

Trade, Agriculture and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.4,297,800, as compared with Rs.3,675,390 in 1924.

IMPORTS.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,796,110, compared with Rs.1,635,780 in 1924. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of Rs. 163,495; the imports from India show also an increase of Rs.36,763. On the other hand, the imports from French possessions showed a decrease of Rs.71,164 as compared with 1924.

EXPORTS.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,507,531, compared with Rs.2,039,610 in 1924. The exports to the United Kingdom showed an increase of Rs.317,389.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	1,351,650
British Possessions	562,804
France and French Colonies	577,183

AGRICULTURE.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 4,873 tons, as compared with 3,184 tons in 1924. Only about 61,000 coconuts were exported during the year under review, as compared with 178,000 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs. 48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.350 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically, and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, and lemon grass oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 45,999 litres valued at Rs.375,852.

The export in 1924 amounted to 34,612 litres.

Vanilla.—2,466 kilos valued at Rs.42,509 were exported in 1925, as against 1,429 kilos valued at Rs.57,744 in 1924.

Rubber.—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 4,936 kilos, as compared with 728 kilos in 1924.

FISHERIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Kilos.	*Value. Rs.*
Tortoise shell	1,211¼	61,401
Calipee	5,640	12,964
Shark fins	647	500
Trepangs	4,706	4,366

The export of guano during the year amounted to 13,889 tons, the declared value being Rs.361,500.

Legislation.

Thirteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1. "An Ordinance to amend the Outlying Islands Labour Ordinance, 1909, and to empower the Governor in Executive Council to make Regulations fixing the scale of rations to be issued to servants on the Outlying Islands."

No. 2. "An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923."

No. 4. "An Ordinance to amend the Patents Ordinance 1901."

No. 8. "An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923."

No. 10. "An Ordinance to amend the Loan to Planters Ordinance, 1904, (No. 4 of 1904)."

No. 11. "An Ordinance to amend the Civil Status Ordinance, 1893."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 21 Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Seventeen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,764 children, with an average attendance of 1,289; the remaining 4 schools are Church of England, attended by 318 pupils, with an average attendance of 224·8.

The average attendance has increased from 68·8 per cent. to 73 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools, and decreased from 73·6 per cent. to 70·4 per cent. in the Church of England schools.

Apart from the schools examined, there are 4 Roman Catholic primary schools which are not yet recognised as Grant-in-Aid schools; one at Port Glaud with 37 pupils; one at Anse Etoile with 75 pupils; one at Plaisance (formerly the Government Ashanti schools) with 42 pupils; and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 50 pupils.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp school were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 218 and 158 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations; 31 candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examination, of whom 14 obtained a Preliminary, 3 a Junior and 3 a School Certificate. Twenty-five candidates were also offered for the higher education of girls: there was one failure.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions and local scholarships. The total amount spent on Education was Rs.28,108, of which Rs.19,427 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 15 miles, however, are at present suitable for motor traffic; schemes for regrading roads are under consideration, which will largely increase the mileage.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.33,093, and the expenditure to Rs.16,002. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 42 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony, but the possibility of communication by wireless telephony between Mahé and the nearer islands is being investigated.

J. BYRNE,
Brigadier-General,
Governor.

COL[illegible]AL ANNUAL REPORTS.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1375.

SEYCHELLES.

REPORT FOR 1926.

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SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1926.

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Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); St. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands, and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The Islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, in 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previously to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the Islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome of His Majesty's ship *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1926, was estimated at 26,397, an increase of 1,874 since the census of 1921.

There were 186 marriages, or 15 less than in 1925.

The births in 1926 numbered 717, which corresponds to a rate of 27.16 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 470, or 17.8 per thousand.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.662,541, a decrease as compared with 1925 of Rs.108,220. Customs revenue produced Rs.285,921 as compared with Rs.390,082 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.713,692.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last four years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1923	683,979	597,940
1924	755,758	659,452
1925	770,761	657,014
1926	662,541	713,692

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1926, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.490,050.22 cts.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue	192,729
On account of Savings Bank	95,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £3,691 2*s*. 5*d*. There is also a balance of Rs.25,000 still owing to Mauritius out of the sum of Rs.50,000 borrowed in 1920 for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1927 Estimates for the repayment of Rs.10,000 of this balance.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1926, was Rs.227,145, an increase of Rs.46,911 compared with 1925.

Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.4,063,478, as compared with Rs.4,297,800 in 1925.

Although the total value of the trade of the Colony showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year, the volume of trade was nevertheless satisfactory.

Imports.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,692,547, compared with Rs.1,796,110 in 1925. The imports from the United Kingdom show a decrease of Rs.124,201; the imports from India show an increase of Rs.55,817. On the other hand the imports from French possessions showed a decrease of Rs.763 as compared with 1925.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,370,931, compared with Rs.2,507,531 in 1925. The exports to the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.461,300.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	895,878
British Possessions	570,543
France	599,653

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 5,461¾ tons, as compared with 4,873 tons in 1925. About 83,900 coconuts were exported during the year under review, as compared with 61,000 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs.48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.350 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, and lemon grass oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 46,183 litres, valued at Rs.325,037. The export in 1925 amounted to 45,999 litres.

Vanilla.—The total export of vanilla during the year amounted to 550 kilos, valued at Rs.4,568, as compared with 2,466 kilos, valued at Rs.42,509, in 1925.

Rubber.—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 6,700 kilos, as compared with 4,936 kilos in 1925.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Kilos.	*Value.* Rs.
Tortoise shell	984½	47,785
Calipee	4,080	11,308
Shark fins	1,106	2,463
Trepangs	5,673	9,810

The export of guano during the year amounted to 6,930 tons, the declared value being Rs.206,880.

Legislation.

Eight Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

The Principal Ordinances were :—

No. 3.—" An Ordinance to authorise the issue of certain fishing licences and to control the capture of and trade in whales and certain fish in Colonial Waters."

No. 4.—" An Ordinance to make provision for the supply by private enterprise of electricity for lighting and other purposes."

No. 5.—" An Ordinance to enable a Notary who is absent from his office and unable to attend to his notarial duties through illness or other sufficient cause to be represented by another Notary temporarily appointed for that purpose."

No. 6.—" An Ordinance relating to the mode of writing to be employed in drawing up Notarial Deeds."

No. 7.—" An Ordinance to regulate the Carriage of Goods by Sea."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 22 Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Eighteen of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,731 children, with an average attendance of 1,305; the remaining four schools are Church of England, attended by 271 pupils, with an average attendance of 203.5.

The average attendance has increased from 73 per cent. to 75.6 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools, and in the Church of England schools from 70.4 per cent. to 75.4 per cent.

Apart from the 22 schools examined, there are four Roman Catholic primary schools which are not yet registered; one at Port Glaud with 28 pupils; one at Anse Etoile with 82 pupils; one at Plaisance with 130 pupils, and one at Anse Boudin, Praslin, with 50 pupils.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise a supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 225 and 154 pupils, respectively; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations. There is also now in Victoria a small paying branch attached to St. Paul's Church of England School, where boys and girls are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations and the higher education of girls. In 1926 the numbers on the registers were 26 (3 boys and 23 girls). Fifty candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1926, of whom 19 obtained a Preliminary, 11 a Junior, and 5 a School Certificate. Forty candidates were also offered for the higher education of girls; of these 25 passed.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions, and local scholarships. The total amount spent on education was Rs.29,513.92, of which Rs.19,814 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 20 miles, however, are now suitable for motor traffic. Schemes for regrading roads are under consideration which will largely increase this mileage.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.23,314, and the expenditure to Rs.20,649. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 44 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks, and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden, and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony; but a wireless telephone service was inaugurated during the year, between Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue. Although this service has not been entirely satisfactory from its inception, it is hoped that the difficulties will be quite overcome, in which case the question of extending it to other segregated localities will be considered.

MALCOLM STEVENSON,

Governor.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1420.

SEYCHELLES

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SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1927.

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Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres) and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

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History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV., from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships, as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome of His Majesty's Ship *Orpheus*.

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Climate.

Although almost on the Equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy, and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but, though the difference in temperature is only slight,

living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1927, was estimated at 26,835, an increase of 2,312 since the census of 1921.

There were 208 marriages, or 22 more than in 1926.

The births in 1927 numbered 759, which corresponds to a rate of 28.28 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 426, or 15.87 per thousand.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs.736,885, an increase as compared with 1926 of Rs.74,344. Customs revenue produced Rs.339,324 compared with Rs.285,921 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.663,266.

The total value of the trade of the Colony showed a slight decrease as compared with the previous year.

The following is a statement of revenue and expenditure for the last four years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	*Rs.*
1924	755,758	659,452
1925	770,761	651,914
1926	662,541	713,692
1927	736,885	663,266

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1927, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.630,670.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue	267,921
On account of Savings Bank	95,661

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £2,804 17s. 6d. There is also a balance of Rs.15,000 still owing to Mauritius out of the sum of Rs.50,000 borrowed in 1920

for the purpose of building an auxiliary ketch. Provision has been made in the 1928 Estimates for the repayment of the balance due.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1927, was Rs.192,356, a decrease of Rs.34,789 compared with 1926.

Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.3,960,171, as compared with Rs.4,063,478 in 1926.

Imports.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,804,710, compared with Rs.1,692,547 in 1926. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of Rs.12,543, the imports from India show an increase of Rs.7,184, and the imports from French possessions show an increase of Rs.27,234 as compared with 1926.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,159,918, compared with Rs.2,376,031 in 1926. The exports to the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs.416,817.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	476,964
British Possessions	812,313
France	244,781

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 4,628¼ tons, as compared with 5,461¾ tons in 1926. Only about 12,500 coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with 83,900 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.40 to Rs.48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.350 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, lemon grass and clove oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 60,366 litres, valued at Rs.397,543.

The export in 1926 amounted to 46,334 litres.

Vanilla.—The total export of vanilla during the year amounted to 3,215 kilos, valued at Rs.28,588, as compared with 551 kilos valued at Rs.4,568 in 1926.

Rubber.—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 9,694 kilos, as compared with 7,394 kilos in 1926.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought to Mahé from the outlying islands by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Kilos.	*Declared value.* Rs.
Tortoise shell	1,171	44,690
Green turtle shell	898	355
Turtle strips	997	547
Calipee	5,023	4,074
Salt fish	6,230	2,214
Trepangs	7,176	10,314

The export of guano during the year amounted to 11,329 tons, the declared value being Rs.287,000.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 1.—"An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923 (No. 7 of 1923.)"

No. 4.—"An Ordinance to amend the Loan to Planters Ordinance, 1904 (No. 4 of 1904)."

No. 5.—"An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the law relating to Mortgages and their inscription and to the registration and transcription of Deeds and other documents."

No. 7.—"An Ordinance to give effect to the measures decided upon in the second International Opium Convention signed at Geneva on the 19th February, 1925, and to regulate the importation into, and the storage and disposal of opium, morphine, cocaine or similar drugs in the Colony."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are twenty-six Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Twenty-one of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 2,014 children, with an average attendance of 1,487 ; the remaining five schools are Church of England, attended by 313 pupils, with an average attendance of 211.5.

The average attendance has decreased from 75.6 per cent. to 73.8 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools, and in the Church of England schools from 75.4 per cent. to 67.5 per cent.

Apart from the twenty-six schools examined, there are two small schools which are not yet registered : one Roman Catholic, at Port Glaud, with twenty-eight pupils; and one Church of England, at Bel Ombre, with eighteen pupils. The latter was visited and it is regretted that the numbers do not justify its recognition as a grant-earning school.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise a supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are two secondary schools, one for boys and one for girls, with 206 and 162 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At both schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local examinations. There is also now in Victoria a small paying branch attached to St. Paul's Church of England school, with thirty pupils, boys and girls. Of these, two sat for the Cambridge Local and eight for the Higher Education of Girls examinations in December last. Twenty-four candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local examinations in 1927, of whom seven obtained a Preliminary and ten a Junior certificate. Thirty-four candidates were also offered for the Higher Education of Girls; of these twenty-six passed.

As regards secondary education, Ordinance No. 6 of 1927, entitled " The Seychelles Scholarship Ordinance, 1927 " was passed in the Legislative Council on the 19th July, 1927. Under this Ordinance, a scholarship of the annual value, free of income tax, either of Rs.1,200 tenable for five years, or of Rs.1,500 tenable for four years, is awarded every alternate year to one scholar of Seychelles, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on

results of the London University Matriculation Examination to the candidate who shall have passed in the First Division and who is recommended for the scholarship by the Examiners.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions, and local scholarships. The total amount spent on education was Rs.28,984.21cts., of which Rs.20264 was a Grant-in-Aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 20 miles, however, are now suitable for motor traffic. Schemes for regrading roads are under consideration which will largely increase this mileage.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.29,710 and the expenditure to Rs.28,658. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 51 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden, and Colombo. Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony; but a wireless telephone service was inaugurated in June, 1926, between Mahé, Praslin and La Digue. Although this service has not been entirely satisfactory from its inception, it is hoped that the difficulties will be quite overcome, in which case the question of extending it to other segregated localities may be considered.

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SEYCHELLES

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SEYCHELLES.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1928.

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Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of South latitude 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahé is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous, fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahé are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Félicité (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles: The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coëtivy, the Farquhar Islands, and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonisation.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahé at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahé. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Viscomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV. from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahé was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's Ship ORPHEUS.

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seycheiles was constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1928, was estimated at 27,238, an increase of 2,715 since the census of 1921.

There were 200 marriages, or 8 less than in 1927.

The births in 1928 numbered 791, which corresponds to a rate of 29·04 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 439, or 16·12 per 1,000.

Government Finance.

The total revenue collected amounted to Rs. 751,633, an increase as compared with 1927 of Rs. 14,748. Customs revenue produced Rs. 325,707 compared with Rs. 339,324 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs. 731,672.

The total value of the trade of the Colony showed a slight increase as compared with the previous year.

The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last four years :—

Year.	*Revenue.*	*Expenditure.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1925	770,761	651,914
1926	662,541	713,692
1927	736,886	663,267
1928	751,633	731,672

The assets of the Colony on 31st December, 1928, exceeded the liabilities by Rs. 583,630.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue ...	329,291·73
On account of Savings Bank	81,079·16

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £1,894 5s. 2d.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1928, was Rs. 198,216 an increase of Rs. 5,860 compared with 1927.

Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs. 4,179,049 as compared with Rs. 3,985,171 in 1927.

Imports.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs. 1,744,719 compared with Rs. 1,804,710 in 1927. The imports from the United Kingdom show a decrease of Rs. 61,421 ; the imports from India show a decrease of Rs. 14,613 ; and the imports from French possessions show a decrease of Rs. 41,350 as compared with 1927.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs. 2,434,330 compared with Rs. 2,159,918 in 1927. The Exports to the United Kingdom showed a decrease of Rs. 172,276.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	304,041
British Possessions	1,442,047
France	137,681

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry :—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 4,982¾ tons as compared with 4,628¼ tons in 1927. About 27,500 coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with 12,500 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs. 40 to Rs. 48 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs. 350 per ton.

Essential Oils :—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, lemon grass, and clove oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 62,323 litres.

The export in 1927 amounted to 60,366 litres.

Vanilla :—The total export of vanilla during the year amounted to 1,311 kilos as compared with 3,245 kilos in 1927.

Rubber :—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 19,172 lb. as compared with 19,388 lb. in 1927.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors, and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. The question of introducing some form of close season for these reptiles is still engaging the attention of the Government.

Turtles are brought from the outlying islands to Mahé by small coasting boats of from 20 to 90 tons. On arrival in Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Kilos.	*Declared value.* Rs.
Tortoise shell	1,041½ ...	28,536
Green turtle shell	698 ...	418
Turtle strips	552 ...	331
Shark fins	1,027 ...	1,214
Calipee	4,165 ...	4,707
Salt fish	600 ...	150
Trepangs	2,320 ...	2,669

The export of guano during the year amounted to 15,400 tons, the declared value being Rs. 461,760.

Legislation.

Nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year. The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 7.—"An Ordinance to amend the Paper Currency of Seychelles."

No. 8.—"An Ordinance to allow licensed Warehouses to issue Dock Warrants on goods and produce stored therein."

No. 9.—"An Ordinance to impose a Tax on lands planted in Sugar Cane, and to regulate the sale of the liquor called 'Bacca.'"

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are twenty-six Grant-in-Aid schools at which free elementary education is given. Twenty-one of these schools are

Roman Catholic, attended by 1,930 children with an average attendance of 1,541·6; the remaining five schools are Church of England, attended by 371 pupils with an average attendance of 254.

The average attendance has increased from 73·8 per cent. to 80 per cent. in the Roman Catholic schools, and in the Church of England schools from 67·5 per cent. to 68·5 per cent.

Apart from the twenty-six schools examined, there are two schools which do not satisfy the conditions for a grant, viz.: one Roman Catholic at Port Glaud, with fifty pupils (twenty boys and thirty girls), the average attendance being only seventeen, and one Church of England at Bel Ombre, with twenty-one pupils (eleven boys and ten girls), the average attendance being sixteen.

A new Church of England school has been constructed at Anse Kerlan, Praslin, and will no doubt be a great boon to the people of that locality.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise a supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are three secondary schools, St. Louis College, St. Joseph's Convent, and St. Paul's School, with 203, 162, and 40 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At all these schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local examinations. Forty-one candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local examinations in 1928, of whom twenty-four obtained a Preliminary, nine a Junior, and two a School Certificate. Thirty-six candidates (girls) were also offered for the Higher Education of Girls examination: of these twenty-nine passed.

As regards secondary education, Ordinance No. 6 of 1927 entitled "The Seychelles Scholarship Ordinance, 1927," was passed in the Legislative Council on the 19th July, 1927.

Under this Ordinance, a scholarship of the annual value, free of income tax, either of Rs. 1,200 tenable for five years, or of Rs. 1,500 tenable for four years, is awarded every second year to one scholar of Seychelles, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London University Matriculation Examination to the candidate who shall have passed in the First Division and who is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

The first examination under the new Ordinance was held in June, 1928.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions, and local scholarships. The total amount spent on education was Rs. 32,526·90 cts., of which Rs. 21,964 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads:—There are over 100 miles of roads and bridle-paths in the Colony. Only about 20 miles, however, are now suitable for motor traffic. Schemes for regrading roads are under consideration which will largely increase this mileage.

Mail and Postal Service:—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs. 26,195 and the expenditure to Rs. 21,100. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 42 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone:—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden, and Colombo.

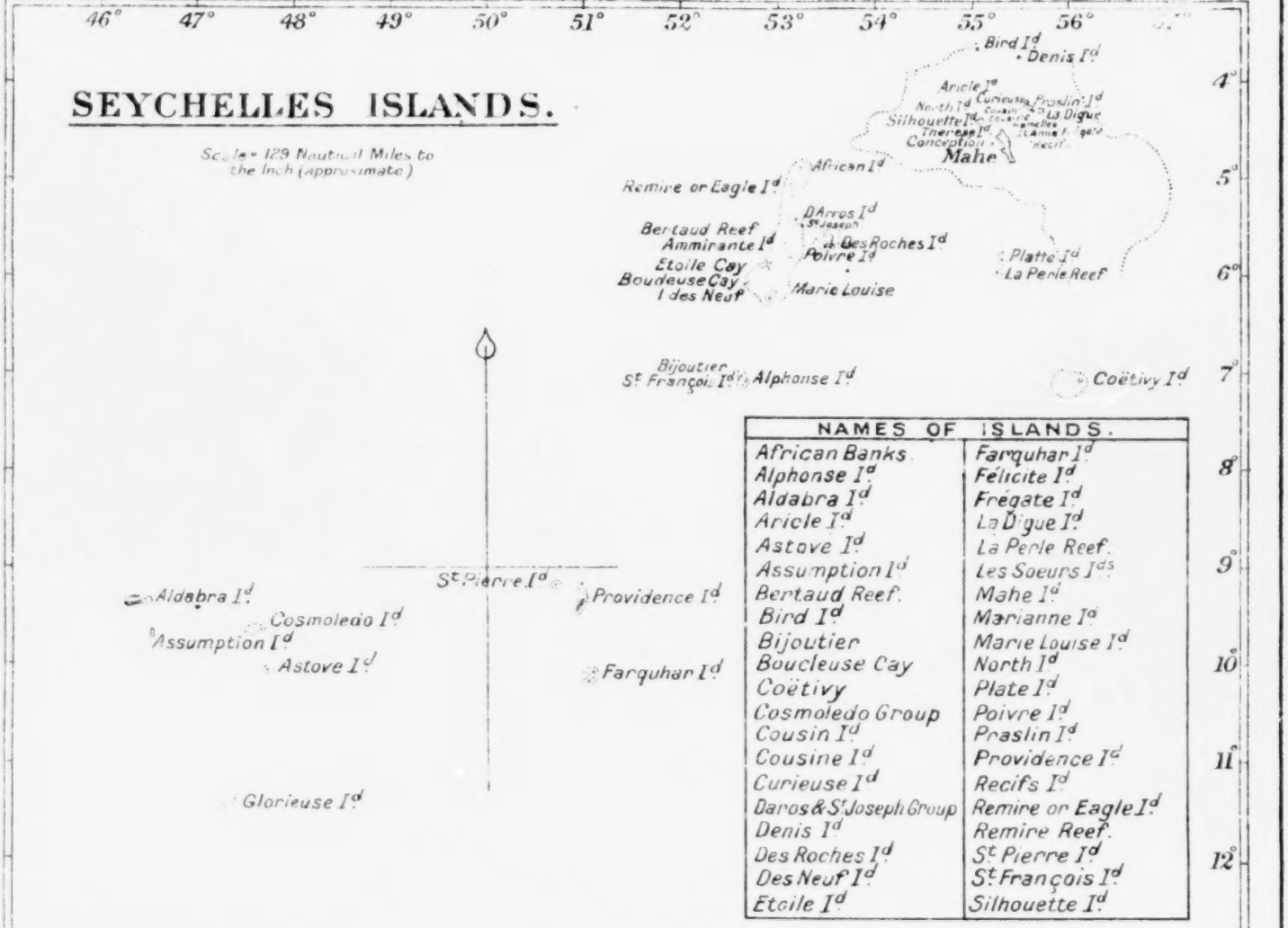
Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony; but a wireless telephone service was inaugurated in June, 1926, between Mahé, Praslin, and La Digue. The service between Mahé and La Digue is still suspended. Tests have been carried out and a report submitted regarding further requirements necessary to put the service into operation on a more reliable basis.

Tests from the Victoria Station have also been carried out with ships at sea with satisfactory results. Communication up to 300 miles has been established with ships, continuous wave and morse code being used for this purpose.

(5315—21). Wt. 4456—325 500 9/29 P. St. G. 7/ 8

SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

Scale = 129 Nautical Miles to the Inch (approximate)



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Aldabra Id.	Frégate Id.
Aricle Id.	La Digue Id.
Astove Id.	La Perle Reef.
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ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR 1929.

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Situation and Area.

The Seychelles Islands are situated between the parallels of S. lat. 4° and 5°; the estimated total number of square miles comprised in the group and in the dependencies of Seychelles is 156¼. The number of islands under the Seychelles Government is 92.

Mahe is the largest and most populous island and is distant from Mauritius 934, from Madagascar 600, and from Zanzibar 970 miles. It is mountainous and fertile, and has an area of about 55 square miles.

The other chief islands within a radius of 60 miles from Mahe are Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Felicite (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The following islands are also dependencies of Seychelles:—The Amirantes, Alphonse Island, Bijoutier Island, St. François Island, St. Pierre Island, Providence, the Cosmoledo Group, Astove Island, Assumption Island, Coetivy, the Farquhar Islands, and the Aldabra Islands.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession of the islands in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Séchelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of His Majesty's Ship *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.M., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Climate.

Although almost on the equator, the climate of Seychelles is quite healthy and, owing to the absence of the anopheline mosquito, malaria does not occur.

The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F., but even at night the temperature seldom falls below 74° F. Thus during the whole year the temperature only varies over a range of about 12° F.

The hottest weather occurs during the months of March and April, but though the difference in temperature is only slight, living in a climate where the temperature is almost constant makes one very susceptible to changes of temperature of only a few degrees.

The rainfall averages about 90 inches, although in some years it has reached 115 inches. The heaviest rains occur in December and January, though showers are frequent throughout the year. The Colony is free from the cyclones which do so much damage to crops in the southern portion of the Indian Ocean.

Population.

The population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1929, was estimated at 27,588, an increase of 3,065 since the census of 1921.

There were 176 marriages, or 24 less than in 1928.

The births in 1929 numbered 844, which corresponds to a rate of 30.59 per 1,000.

The deaths amounted to 495, or 17.94 per 1,000.

Government Finance.

The total r[illegible] collected amounted to Rs.762,061, an increase as compared w[illegible]928 of Rs.10,428. Customs revenue produced Rs.387,228 com[illegible] with Rs.325,707 the previous year.

The expenditure totalled Rs.767,189.

The following is a statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the last four years :—

Year.	*Revenue.* Rs.	*Expenditure.* Rs.
1926	662,541	713,692
1927	736,886	663,267
1928	751,633	731,672
1929	762,061	767,189

The assets of the Colony on the 31st December, 1929, exceeded the liabilities by Rs.578,501.

The investments of the Colony were as follows :—

	Rs.
On account of General Revenue	677,687.62
On account of Savings Bank	85,032.07

Public Debt.

The balance remaining due to the Imperial Treasury on account of the loan of £20,000 made to Seychelles in 1900 for road making was £958 12s.

Savings Bank.

The balance standing to the credit of depositors on the 31st December, 1929, was Rs.241,034, an increase of Rs.42,818 compared with 1928.

Trade, Agriculture, and Industries.

The total value of the trade of the Colony (exclusive of imported specie) was Rs.3,957,026 as compared with Rs.4,179,049 in 1928.

Imports.

The total value of the imports (exclusive of specie) was Rs.1,813,283 compared with Rs.1,644,719 in 1928. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of Rs.170,679; the imports from India show a decrease of Rs.60,472. The imports from French possessions show a decrease of Rs.4,343 as compared with 1928.

Exports.

The total exports were valued at Rs.2,143,743 compared with Rs.2,434,330 in 1928. The exports to the United Kingdom show a decrease of Rs.74,945.

The principal countries to which produce was exported were the following :—

	Rs.
United Kingdom	229,096
British Possessions	1,087,931
France	41,436

Agriculture.

The Coconut Industry.—This is the most important of the Colony's industries.

The total export of copra during the year amounted to 4,582¼ tons as compared with 4,982¾ tons in 1928. About 19,360 coconuts were exported during the year under review as compared with 27,500 the previous year. Coconuts sold locally during the year at a price of about Rs.30 to Rs.40 per thousand, while copra averaged about Rs.250 per ton.

Essential Oils.—After the copra industry, the distillation of essential oils holds the place of next importance in the Colony's industries.

The distillation of cinnamon oil was continued energetically and increasing interest has been shown in the distillation of patchouli, basilic, lemon grass, and clove oil.

The total export of essential oils of all kinds amounted to 70,677 litres.

The export in 1928 amounted to 62,323 litres.

Vanilla.—The total export of vanilla during the year amounted to 1,607 kilos as compared with 1,311 kilos in 1928.

Rubber.—The total export of rubber during the year amounted to 2,041 lb. as compared with 19,172 lb. in 1928.

Fisheries and Natural Resources.

The majority of the natives of the Colony are born sailors and the number who fish to earn a living is therefore considerable. Fish and turtle are very plentiful, but the number of the latter is said to be diminishing. Turtles are brought from the outlying islands to Mahe. In Victoria they are kept in turtle ponds until required.

In connection with the fishing industry the following exports were made during the year :—

	Kilos.	*Declared value. Rs.*
Tortoise shell	995	26,704
Green turtle shell	633	274
Turtle strips	1,314	1,234
Shark fins	865	865
Calipee	4,226	4,982
Fresh fish	1,043	214
Trepangs	6,061	6,126

The export of guano during the year amounted to 12,780 tons, the declared value being Rs. 265,585.

Legislation.

Ten Ordinances were passed by the Legislature during the year.

The principal Ordinances were :—

No. 6.—"An Ordinance to regulate the use of Motor Vehicles."

No. 7.—"An Ordinance to regulate the fisheries of Seychelles."

Education.

Education is not compulsory.

There are 27 Grant-in-Aid Schools at which free elementary education is given. Twenty-one of these schools are Roman Catholic, attended by 1,985 children, an increase of 55 since 1928. The average attendance was 1,473.5 or 74 per cent. of the total number of children on the registers. The remaining six schools are Church of England with 397 pupils an increase of 26; the average attendance has increased from 254 to 302.5. This represents 76 per cent. of the numbers on the roll.

Apart from those 27 schools, there are two schools which are not registered, one Roman Catholic at Port Glaud with 46 pupils and one Church of England at Bel Ombre with 14 pupils.

With effect from the 1st January, 1924, the Government Schools ceased to exist and a portion of the Victoria School building was handed over to the Church of England educational authorities, whilst the remainder of Victoria School and the Ashanti Camp School were handed over to the Roman Catholic Church. This change was brought about as the result of a joint scheme put forward by the Bishops of the two denominations. The Government still maintains an Inspector of Schools, whose duty it is to exercise a supervision over primary education throughout the Colony.

There are three secondary schools, St. Louis College, St. Joseph's Convent, and St. Paul's School, with 195, 162, and 46 pupils respectively; fees are charged. At all these schools candidates are prepared for the Cambridge Local Examinations. Fifty-seven candidates were entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations in 1929 of whom 15 obtained a Preliminary, 14 a Junior, and eight a School Certificate. Thirty-five candidates (girls) were also offered for the Higher Education of Girls; of these 34 passed.

A scholarship of the annual value, free from Income Tax, either of Rs.1,200 tenable for five years, or Rs.1,500 tenable for four years, is awarded every second year to one scholar of Seychelles to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The Scholarship is awarded on the results of the London University Examination to the candidate who shall have passed in the First Division and who is recommended for the scholarship by the Examiners.

Government assistance is given in the shape of grants, exhibitions, and local scholarships. The total amount spent on education was Rs.36,109.29 cts., of which Rs.22,214 was a grant-in-aid to primary schools.

Communications.

Roads.—There are over 150 miles of roads and bridle paths in the Colony. Only about 30 miles, however, are now suitable for motor traffic. Regrading and widening of roads for motor traffic are being proceeded with.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.23,215 and the expenditure to Rs.23,508. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 44 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals. An effort has been made to speed up the delivery of mails to the public on mail days by landing them at the White Shed and conveying them to the Post Office by motor lorry. The number of extra sorters employed on mail days has also been in-

creased for the same purpose. As a result it is found that the delivery of mails to private letter boxes commences approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours, and to the public at the counter 3 hours, after the mail steamer anchors. All public letter boxes in the town area and country districts have been inspected and repainted during the year and repairs carried out where necessary.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Telegraph and Telephone.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is now an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden, and Colombo.

Telegraphic communication with the outside world was maintained throughout the year. There are no public telephones in the Colony; but a Wireless Telephone Service was inaugurated in June, 1926, between Mahe, Praslin, and La Digue. The tests with ships referred to in the previous report were continued during the early part of the year using an experimental aerial suspended above the Post Office and the results obtained were so consistently satisfactory that, in spite of the very low power of the transmitting set (40-50 watts) it was recommended that the station at Victoria should be officially registered and opened for public communication with ships at sea. It was also decided to remove the Victoria Station to a site adjacent to the Post Office to facilitate its operation and control.

These recommendations having been approved, application was made for official registration, certain necessary stores and spares were ordered, and the removal of the station to the new site was commenced. The work having been duly completed, stores received, and the station registered before the end of the year arrangements were made to open the station (Victoria Radio) on the 1st January, 1930.

The opening of the local service between Mahe and La Digue, which it was hoped would coincide with the above, has unfortunately been delayed owing chiefly to lack of trained personnel, as the operator for La Digue, whose training was almost completed, had suddenly to leave the service owing to ill-health. Arrangements are being made to train another operator and it is hoped to open the local service during the course of next year.

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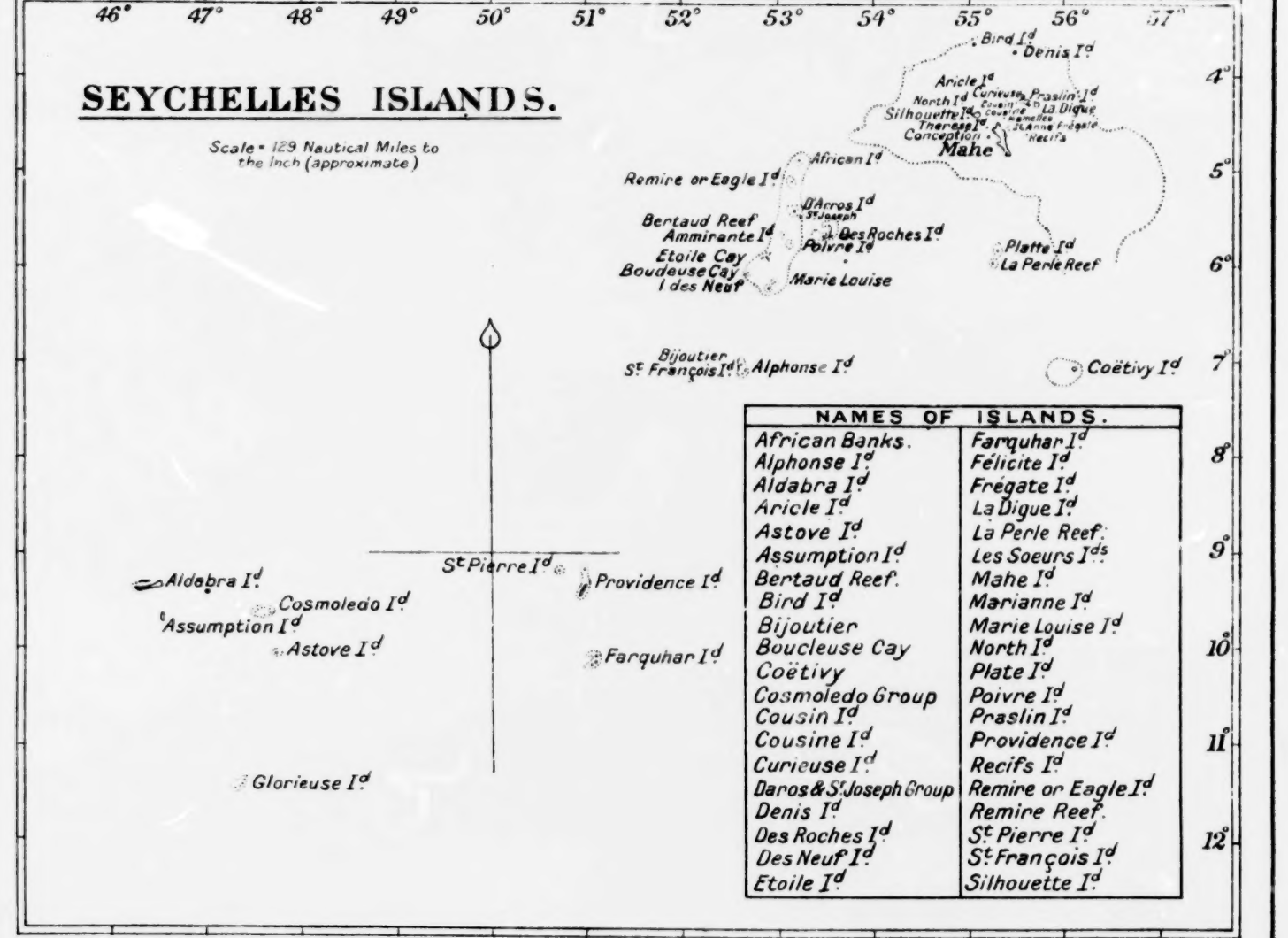

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REPORT FOR 1930

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COLONY OF SEYCHELLES FOR THE YEAR 1930

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CHAPTER I.

Geography, including Climate and History.

The Colony comprises 92 islands situated between the 4th and 10th parallels of South Latitude, their aggregate area being estimated at 156 square miles.

Mahe is the central and largest of the islands, lying upon a submerged bank extending for a radius of sixty miles. It is the seat of Government and contains 21,217 of the population out of a total of 28,217. It has only one harbour, upon which the town of Victoria is situated and in which live approximately one-third of the inhabitants of the island, the remainder being in hamlets or on estates.

The area of the island is 51 square miles. It is of rugged granite formation, rising steeply from the sea to a central dividing range of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in altitude.

The islands of Madagascar and Mauritius and the African coast (Mombasa) are approximately 1,000 miles distant in each case.

The other principal islands on the Bank, also mostly of granite formation, are :—Praslin (9,700 acres) ; Silhouette (4,200 acres) ; La Digue (2,500 acres) ; Curieuse (900 acres) ; Felicite (800 acres) ; North Island (525 acres) ; Ste. Anne (500 acres) ; Frigate (500 acres) ; Denis (340 acres) ; Cerf (290 acres) ; and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The outlying islands are of coral formation. They extend to the 10th degree of South Latitude, the farthest away and the most interesting, Aldabra, being 650 miles distant from Headquarters. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map attached to this report.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but, naturally, it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the South-East trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the time, the North-West monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F. but seldom falls below 74°. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics. With the completion of motor roads now under construction, it will be possible for many residents in the town to live at a higher and cooler altitude in the hot months.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name they originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on the 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, Mr. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent

Civil under the British Government. Mr. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on the 10th July 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of the Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the High Seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic Faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

CHAPTER II.

Government.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as Chairman, three senior Departmental Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

CHAPTER III.

Population.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

On the 31st December, 1930, the population was estimated at 28,217, an increase of 3,694 since the census of 1921, or 13 per cent.

The population is distributed approximately as follows :—

Mahe	21,217
Neighbouring Islands	6,000
Outlying Islands	1,000
Total	28,217

The following are the more important vital statistics of the Colony :—

	1930	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1929	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	790	27·99	844	30·59
Deaths	395	13·99	495	17·94
Marriages	208	7·37	176	6·38
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year)	68	86·08*	121	143·35*
Emigration	389	13·79	565	20·48
Immigration	623	22·08	566	20·52

* Rate per 1,000 births.

A census in 1931 will enable figures of population to be checked.

CHAPTER IV.

Health.

This chapter is properly headed " Health " because the health of the population generally is sound. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the Anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never obtained a hold, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox, though there was nothing epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years,

do any of these diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygiene principles is important, especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts. Accidents of a serious nature seldom occur.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff, under the Chief Medical Officer, consists of a Resident Surgeon, who is also in charge of an X-ray and Electric Department, a Surgeon Dentist, four Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), one Head Midwife and Matron of the Maternity Section, and seven probationary nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year 921 cases were treated in the hospital.

In connexion with the appointment of a resident Surgeon-Dentist, the following extract of a report by him is interesting :—

> "It will be seen that here in Seychelles we have a *very* high standard of sound dentition, twice as high as England and *eight* times more than St. Helena.
>
> "Of course I have yet to inspect the town schools, which may affect the average, nevertheless it will be very interesting to find out why there should be so much in the favour of Seychelles, compared with St. Helena, when the same standard of living is maintained."

His later report on the town schools was also satisfactory.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene and it is under contemplation to supplement the ordinary teaching by the exhibition of films.

Leprosy is on the increase ; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A new leper settlement has recently been prepared on an island of 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Twenty-six lepers are isolated on the settlements and 45 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. The settlement has a small band of its own, and the Governor, on visits, is received and speeded with the National Anthem. Visits of relatives are allowed under the conditions necessary. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits, pigeons, etc.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. There has been a slight decrease of late years in the number of these ; at present there are 20 inmates.

Tuberculosis is also on the increase to some extent and special wards are being arranged for at the hospital for isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of them are planted with coconuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,000 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known locally as " Decoque," is met with. The Government hopes at an early date to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

It should be added, with reference to what has been said above about malarial fever, that an outbreak occurred during the year on the outlying island of Aldabra, supposed to have been occasioned by a visiting ship from the coast of Africa. A similar occurrence took place in the year 1908, but, apparently, the visiting anopheles soon disappeared, and the same thing appears to be happening again. In any case, steps have been taken to eradicate them as far as possible.

CHAPTER V.

Housing.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coconut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1*s.* 6*d.*) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more saving among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coconut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families. The visiting Medical Officer to the islands has suggested some minor improvements, which are being carried out.

CHAPTER VI.

Production.

The chief product of the Colony is the coconut. The net export value of this commodity for 1930 was as follows :—

Coconut oil	...	...	Rs.3,025 (7,815 litres).
Copra	...	...	Rs.1,209,450 (5,909½ tons).

Cinnamon, which is a jungle tree still exploited for its essential oil, in spite of the fluctuation in the price of the latter, remains the second product in importance, with an output of 50,478 litres, exported mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.328,522. Cinnamon bark averaging 71½ tons, together with 2,341 litres of patchouli oil, were also exported and valued at Rs.5,717 and Rs.24,589, respectively. Basilic oil (*Ocimum basilicum*) was also distilled on a small scale, yielding 23 litres with an export value of Rs.230. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 3,636 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.18,809. The Colony is adapted for the development of fisheries. One million pounds of fresh fish, representing Rs.400,000, are captured per annum for local consumption. 4,225 litres of turtle oil worth Rs.2,120, 2,567 kilos of turtle strips worth Rs.2,028, 4,120 kilos of calipee worth Rs.7,133, and 1,095 kilos of shark fins worth Rs.1,267, were exported in 1930. The other fishery products are tortoise-shell 1,335 kilos valued at Rs.34,018, tripangs 9,647 kilos valued at Rs.8,037, and 84,228 kilos of birds' eggs yolk and albumen liquid worth Rs.33,963.

Phosphatic guano was exported to Ceylon, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, Belgium, and French Possessions to the amount of 15,977 tons valued at Rs.376,063.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and inclusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands (13,597 acres) are being set out in coconuts and other timber trees. Land under forest stretching over 2,500 acres, one-fifth of which is under commercial timber, produced 48,000 c.ft., at a local market value of Rs.20,000. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and banana, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas which total 508 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other live stock comprise : horses, 180 ; asses, 100 ; mules, 9 ; cattle, 984 ; and goats 300. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows :—

Produce.	*Quantity.* lb.	*Farm value.* Rs.	
Butter	1,200	2,400	
Cheese	600	900	
Meat	70,000	28,000	
Hides	2,500	2,500	(mostly from calves.)
Pork	36,000	12,960	
Turtle meat ...	45,000	14,850	

Every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both. Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

	Number.
Farm labourers under 15 years	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over	6,141
Fishermen	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals, or small companies.

There is little cultivation beyond some manioc, pumpkins, etc., for their own use, by persons of non-European descent. These make no effort to save any part of their wages and so with few exceptions own no land. This refers to persons of African blood. Those of mixed blood do not differ in enterprise from the pure-blooded descendants of the early settlers.

CHAPTER VII.

Commerce.

Imports and Exports.—The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1930 amounted to Rs.3,680,044, being a decrease of Rs.276,982 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.1,631,077, a decrease of Rs.182,206 as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.2,048,967, a decrease of Rs.94,776 compared with the year 1929.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1930 :—

	Rs.
Trade Imports	1,555,966
Government Imports	75,111
	1,631,077
Domestic Exports and Re-exports	2,060,325
Excess of Exports and Re-exports over Imports ...	Rs. 429,248

The following table shows the balance of trade as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports during the quinquennial period 1926–1930 :—

Year.	*Exports.* Rs.	*Imports.* Rs.	*Excess of Exports over Imports.* Rs.
1926	2,370,931	1,712,547	658,384
1927	2,155,461	1,829,710	325,751
1928	2,434,330	1,744,719	689,611
1929	2,143,743	1,813,283	330,460
1930	2,048,967	1,631,077	417,890

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

Countries.	*Imports.* Rs.	*Exports.* Rs.
United Kingdom ...	530,054	277,718
India	564,814	81,632
France	127,205	111,146
United States of America.	29,336	328,522

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1929 and 1930 was as follows :—

	1929 Rs.	1930 Rs.
United Kingdom ...	67,099	200,200
India	4,380	78,630
South Africa ...	807,238	536,770
Germany	150,625	40,900
Norway	125,812	264,550
France	—	85,080
Mauritius	—	3,320
	Rs.1,155,154	Rs.1,209,450

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same periods was :

	1929.	1930.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	103,646	18,203
United States of America.	492,742	328,522
France	16,140	5,611
Germany	4,000	—
French Possessions	—	1,005
	Rs.616,528	Rs.353,341

The value of guano exported for the same periods was :—

	1929.	1930.
	Rs.	Rs.
Ceylon	73,500	40,000
Kenya	38,100	5,665
Mauritius	34,615	30,498
New Zealand	116,370	165,000
French Possessions	3,000	14,900
Belgium	—	120,000
Total ...	Rs.265,585	Rs.376,063

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*	*Total.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1929 ...	31,612	101,013	48,205	3,625	184,455
1930 ...	24,932	70,978	64,049	1,612	161,571

The supply of cotton piece-goods in yards for the last five years is as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*
	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
1926 ...	83,058	439,341	33,700	900
1927 ...	64,772	620,418	159,220	3,719
1928 ...	38,810	521,935	137,350	1,949
1929 ...	89,066	456,254	202,233	3,100
1930 ...	57,587	297,718	396,485	1,389

General Course of Prices.—Both the prices of imported and exported articles have fallen.

Copra which was Rs.280 the ton in January fell to Rs.210 in September, to rise to Rs.230 in December. Essential oil (cinnamon) fell from Rs.7 a litre to Rs.6. Caret (tortoise-shell) selling at Rs.20 fell to Rs.14 per kilo, with a slight rise later. Essential oil distillation has made great strides of recent years, but is now seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case also with copra, the principal industry. Approximately one-third of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs.530,054). India supplied 2,500¼ tons of rice (Rs.339,934). The general fall in prices is a reflection of the world-wide trade depression.

CHAPTER VIII.

Wages and Cost of Living.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally verbal, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into consideration the cost of their living, the average being Rs.10 per month—equal to 125 lb. of rice, the staple foodstuff. Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation ; they earn from Rs.5 to Rs.6 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are excellent. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is :—men, Rs.4 ; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them, on their return to Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations, friends, and the sharks of a seaport town.

Cost of Living of Officials.—Family of 2 adults and 2 children.—The rent of houses is Rs.40 to Rs.60 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows :—cooks Rs.20 to Rs.30, house boys Rs.15 to Rs.20, maid servants Rs.6 to Rs.8, washerwomen Rs.12 to Rs.15, gardeners Rs.16 to Rs.20. The average cost of living (per month) is as follows :—

	Rs.
Rent	45
Food	150
Cook	20
Boy	15
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Gardener	16
Fuel	8
Lighting	20
School books and fees	20
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	25
Charities...	5
Taxes	20
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	50
Bedding and household utensils, etc.	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.462

No assistance towards the cost of passages for leave is granted by the Government.

Average Rate of Wages for Labour.

	Per annum.	*Per day of 8 hours.*	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.*
Agricultural :—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Overseers ...	500—720	—	—
Gardeners ...	144—192	—	1·50 p.d.
Labourers ...	96—120	1	2 p. nht.
Domestic Service :—			
Predial	120—180	—	—
Domestic ...	120—300	—	—
Trade and Manufacture :—			
Carpenters ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths ...	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.12 to Rs.14 per month.

CHAPTER IX.

Education and Welfare Institutions.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 29 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 22 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,064 pupils (886 boys and 1,178 girls); the average attendance in 1930 was 1,595 or 77 per cent.; the remaining 7 schools are Church of England schools with 421 pupils (236 boys and 185 girls); the average attendance was 328 or 77·9 per cent. The churches receive an annual government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1930 was 208. St. Joseph's Convent School affords education to 143 girls up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

A scholarship of the annual value, free of income-tax, either of Rs.1,200 (approximately £90) tenable for 5 years or of Rs.1,500 (approximately £110) tenable for 4 years, together with a free passage to England and back on completion of studies, is awarded every second year to a scholar, under the age of 19, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London Matriculation Examination to the candidate who has passed in the first division and is recommended for the scholarship by the Examiners.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.18,700.

A Benevolent Society, known as "La Ligue de Secours," supported by private donations, also gives some assistance.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band, assisted by a Government grant.

Music is taught at St. Joseph's Convent School.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

An occasional cinema exhibition is given but, owing to various causes, new films are difficult to get.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Occasional concerts, etc., are given under the auspices of these.

The visit of a Warship twice a year from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

CHAPTER X.

Communications and Transport.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been and are continuing to be constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. It is hoped, with in the next two years, to complete the roads of the main island and of Praslin and La Digue. The smaller islands are owned or leased by individual planters who make their own arrangements in this regard. A grant is being given from the Colonial Development Fund of £7,500 for construction of roads, on the £1 for £1 principle.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and larger sailing ships, of which there are 8, ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves as a weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

A wireless station is attached to the Postal Department. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it has been found useful for communicating with visiting ships. An ancillary station is being established on the island of Praslin.

Mail and Postal Service.—The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.23,149·83 and the expenditure to Rs.20,388·36. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 46 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals. Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.—The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

CHAPTER XI.

Banking, Currency, and Weights and Measures.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount on deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.199,533, a decrease of Rs.41,501 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchases and sells Drafts and undertakes the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation :— silver 50-cent pieces and 25-cent pieces. Mauritius currency notes of Rs.50, Rs.10, and Rs.5, and silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5, 2, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes are being withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values :—Rs.50, Rs.10, Re.1, and half-rupee. The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1930, amounted to Rs.165,867 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as :—

(1) *L'aune*, a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metre.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare, for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette*, employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tiercon*, a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt*, a measure of capacity for coconut oil, = 7·57 litres.

(6) *One cord*, used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

CHAPTER XII.

Public Works.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. This officer is also Chairman of the Victoria Town Board. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengering work were put out to contract during the year, with good results. The construction of motor roads was the principal work undertaken during the year. Most of the work has been done by contract at a very reasonable rate and to the satisfaction of the Government and the Road Advisory Board, which consists of three private residents nominated by the Governor.

The transfer of the lepers to a new settlement necessitated the building of suitable quarters, which work was also satisfactorily carried out under the superintendence of the Department.

CHAPTER XIII.

Justice and Police.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

The Police Magistrate holds his Court in Victoria. He exercises a limited jurisdiction over minor offences. The maximum punishment he can inflict is a fine of Rs.250 and imprisonment for two months.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers, the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court.

Police.—The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1930 of :—1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 3 Sergeants, 10 Corporals, 78 Constables.

There are 11 Police Stations in Mahe, 3 in Praslin, and 1 at La Digue.

Criminal Statistics for 1930.—

	Total Numbers.			
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned.*
Supreme Court ...	136	115	47	62
Summary Courts ...	1,613	1,362	1,281	34

Thirty-four male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment and 19 persons were bound over. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prison.—The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coconut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work.

The health of the prisoners is excellent.

In 1930, the daily average number in prison amounted to 38·8 men and 4·6 women.

CHAPTER XIV.

Legislation.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no factory or workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Ordinances passed in 1930.—

1. Ordinance to amend the Maintenance Orders (Reciprocal Enforcement) Ordinance (No. 3 of 1922)—Change in Procedure.
2. Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1930.
3. To deal with disused roads :—
   Provides that a road no longer needed by the public may be closed and revert to private ownership.
   This became necessary owing to the extensive road improvement programme.
4. Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.
5. To amend the Fisheries Ordinance, 1929 (No. 7 of 1929). Extended the Fishery Reserves.
6. To amend the Paper Currency Revised Ordinance, 1928 (No. 7 of 1928). Extended the time during which Mauritius paper currency is legal tender.
7. To amend the Penalties (Application and Enforcement) Ordinance, 1903 (No. 18 of 1903). Revised scale of imprisonment in default of payment of fines.

CHAPTER XV.

Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.—The Revenue for the year amounted to Rs.754,173, being a surplus on the estimate of Rs.63,297. The Expenditure amounted to Rs.709,345, shewing an excess of Rs.21,674 on the estimate. In addition, a sum of Rs.128,722 was expended on capital services from Surplus Funds.

The following statement shows the Revenue for each of the last five years :—

	Rs.
1926	662,541
1927	736,885
1928	751,633
1929	762,061
1930	754,173

The following statement shows the Expenditure for each of the last five years :—

	Ordinary. Rs.	*From Surplus Funds.* Rs.
1926	713,392	–
1927	563,266	—
1928	731,672	—
1929	715,640	51,549
1930	709,345	128,722

Customs brought in the greater part of the Revenue, i.e., Rs.356,792 of the total Revenue of the Colony.

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years :—

	Customs. Rs.	*Taxes.* Rs.	*Other Sources.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1926	285,707	186,705	190,129	663,541
1927	339,324	197,764	199,797	736,885
1928	325,704	188,757	237,169	751,633
1929	387,228	203,842	170,991	762,061
1930	356,792	196,749	200,632	754,173

Public Debt.—The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.—The excess of Assets over Liabilities on the 1st January, 1930, was Rs.578,501. On the 31st December, 1930, the amount had decreased to Rs.494,607 owing to expenditure on capital services, such as roads.

Taxation.—No change was made in the method of raising revenue, or alteration in the rate of taxation during the year. The following are the main heads of taxation, their yield is given above :—

Customs Tariff.—The *ad valorem* duty is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on foodstuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 cent. of a rupee per degree of alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano and mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark; Rs.2·50 per kilo of tortoise-shell (Caret).

Details of Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc., are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A Rural House Tax is imposed of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be fifty cents of a rupee whenever the value of such house shall be less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

Income-Tax.—This is payable at the following rates:—

When income is less than Rs.1,000 the rate shall be 1 per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of Rs.2.

When income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more:—

2	per cent. on the	1st	Rs.1,000	or part thereof.		
$2\frac{1}{2}$	,,	,,	2nd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
3	,,	,,	3rd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
$3\frac{1}{2}$	,,	,,	4th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
4	,,	,,	5th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
$4\frac{1}{2}$	,,	,,	6th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
5	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.6,000	up to	Rs.15,000.
$5\frac{1}{2}$	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.15,000 ,,	Rs.20,000.
6	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.20,000.	

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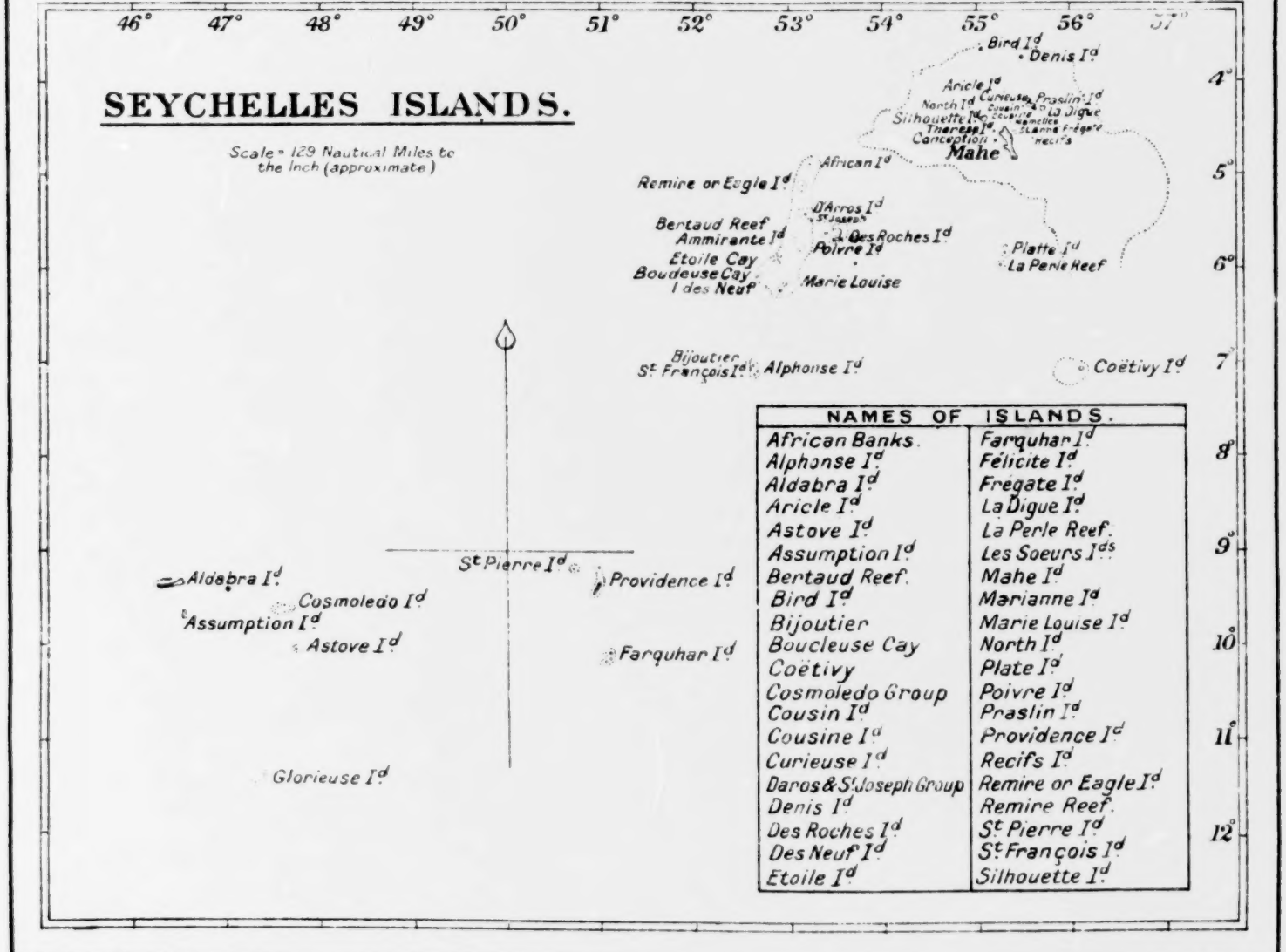
SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

Scale = 129 Nautical Miles to the Inch (approximate)



NAMES OF ISLANDS.	
African Banks.	Farquhar Id.
Alphonse Id.	Félicite Id.
Aldabra Id.	Frégate Id.
Aricle Id.	La Digue Id.
Astove Id.	La Perle Reef.
Assumption Id.	Les Soeurs Ids
Bertaud Reef.	Mahe Id.
Bird Id.	Marianne Id.
Bijoutier	Marie Louise Id.
Boucleuse Cay	North Id.
Coëtivy	Plate Id.
Cosmoledo Group	Poivre Id.
Cousin Id.	Praslin Id.
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SEYCHELLES, 1931

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CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony comprises 92 islands situated between the 4th and 10th parallels of South latitude, their aggregate area being estimated at 156 square miles.

Mahe is the central and largest of the islands, lying upon a submerged bank. It is the seat of Government and contains 21,712 of the population out of a total of 27,444. It has only one harbour, upon which is situated the town of Victoria where approximately one-third of the inhabitants of the island live, the remainder living in hamlets or on estates.

The area of the island is 51 square miles. It is of rugged granite formation, rising steeply from the sea to a central dividing range of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in altitude.

The islands of Madagascar and Mauritius and the African coast (Mombasa) are approximately 1,000 miles distant in each case.

The other principal islands on the bank, also mostly of granite formation, are :—Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Felicite (800 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Frigate (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres); and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The outlying islands are of coral formation. They extend to the 10th degree of South latitude, the farthest away and the most interesting, Aldabra, being 650 miles distant from Mahe. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map at the end of this Report.

Climate.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the south-east trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the time, the north-west monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86°F. but seldom falls below 74°. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics. With the completion of motor roads now under construction it will be possible for many residents in the town to live at a higher and cooler altitude in the hot months.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name the islands originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe after Mahe de Labourdonnais. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, M. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. M. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of the Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the high seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic Faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

CHAPTER II.

GOVERNMENT.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council, and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as President, three senior Departmental

Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council and one Unofficial Member. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

CHAPTER III.

POPULATION.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

A census was taken on 26th April, 1931, shewing a total population at that date of 27,444 (13,289 males and 14,155 females), with a distribution as follows:—

Mahe	21,712
Neighbouring islands	4,240
Outlying islands	1,492

The following are the more important vital statistics for the year:—

	1931	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1930	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	829	29·83	790	27·99
Deaths	376	13·53	395	13·99
Marriages	194	6·98	208	7·37
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year)	68	82·03*	68	86·08*
Emigration	395	14·21	389	13·79
Immigration	502	18·06	623	22·08

* Rate per 1,000 births.

The census of 1931 was the fifth taken in the Colony. The following figures of population shew the rates of increase per decennial period:—

1891.	*1901.*	*1911.*	*1921.*	*1931.*
16,440	19,237	22,691	24,523	27,444

These figures may be taken to indicate increases by birth, since neither immigration nor emigration is on a large scale and, roughly, the numbers balance each other.

CHAPTER IV.

HEALTH.

The health of the population generally is sound. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never obtained a hold, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox. Except for an outbreak of bacillary dysentry confined to a particular district on the main island, there was no epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years, do any of the above diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygienic principles is important, especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized, and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff, under the Chief Medical Officer, consists of a Resident Surgeon, who is also in charge of an X-ray and Electric Department, a Surgeon Dentist, four Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), one Head Midwife and Matron of the Maternity Section, and seven Probationary Nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year, 907 cases were treated in the Seychelles Government Hospital.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene and it is hoped later on to supplement the ordinary teaching by the exhibition of films.

Leprosy is on the increase ; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A new leper settlement has been established on an island of 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Forty-four lepers are isolated in the settlements and 48 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. Visits of relatives are allowed under the conditions necessary. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits, pigeons, etc.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. There has been a slight decrease of late years in the number of these ; at present there are 20 inmates.

Tuberculosis is also on the increase to some extent. A modern tubercular ward, situated in the hospital grounds, was completed during the year for the isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of them are planted with coco-nuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,500 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known locally as " Decoque," is met with. The Government hopes when conditions permit to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

CHAPTER V.

HOUSING.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coco-nut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1*s.* 6*d.*) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more saving among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coco-nut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families.

CHAPTER VI.

PRODUCTION.

The chief exports of the Colony are the products of the coco-nut. The net export values of these products for 1931 were as follows :—

Coco-nut oil (3,550 litres)	...	...	Rs.880
Copra (4,874¾ tons)	...	...	Rs.665,854

Cinnamon, a jungle tree, is still exploited for its essential oil, which in spite of the fluctuation of price, remains the export product, second in importance, with an output of 54,795 litres, exported mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.256,372. Cinnamon bark exports amounted to 34¼ tons, of a value of Rs.3,041. 3,915 litres of patchouli oil, valued at Rs.35,828, were also exported. Basilic oil (*Ocimum basilicum*) was also distilled on a small scale, yielding 12 litres with an export value of Rs.1,200. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 980 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.2,894. The Colony is adapted for the development of fisheries, which is now proceeding. One million pounds of fresh fish, representing Rs.400,000, are captured per annum for local consumption. 2,511 kilos of turtle strips worth Rs.2,389, 4,186 kilos of calipee worth Rs.6,521, and 1,433 kilos of shark fins worth Rs.2,031, were exported in 1931. The other fishery products are tortoise-shell, 1,008 kilos valued at Rs.19,775, and tripangs, 7,673 kilos valued at Rs.5,272. 95,750 kilos of birds' eggs yolk and albumen liquid worth Rs.30,501 were also produced.

Phosphatic guano was exported to the United Kingdom, Ceylon, Kenya, Mauritius, and New Zealand to the amount of 4,730 tons valued at Rs.63,350.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and intrusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands (13,597 acres) are being set out in coco-nuts and timber trees. Land under forest stretching over 2,500 acres, one-fifth of which is under commercial timber, produced 48,000 c.ft., at a local market value of Rs.20,000. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and banana, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas totalling 508 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other live stock comprise: horses, 100; asses, 100; mules, 9; cattle, 4,000; and goats 300. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows:—

Produce.	*Quantity.* lb.	*Farm value.* Rs.
Butter	1,200	2,400
Cheese	600	900
Meat	70,000	28,000
Hides (mostly from calves)	3,500	2,000
Pork	36,000	12,960
Turtle meat	45,000	14,850

Every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both, Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

Farm labourers under 15 years numbered ...	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over numbered...	6,141
Fishermen numbered	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals or small companies.

There is little cultivation beyond some manioc, pumpkins, etc., for their own use, by persons of non-European descent. These make no effort to save any part of their wages and so with few exceptions own no land. Those of mixed blood do not differ in enterprise from the pure-blooded descendants of the early settlers.

CHAPTER VII.

COMMERCE.

Imports and Exports.

The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1931 amounted to Rs.2,172,671, being a decrease of Rs.1,507,373 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.1,069,858, a decrease of Rs.561,119 as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.1,102,713, a decrease of Rs.946,254 compared with the year 1930.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1931 :—

	Rs.
Trade imports	1,038,526
Government imports	31,432
	1,069,958
Domestic exports and re-exports	1,107,733
Excess of exports and re-exports over imports ...	Rs. 37,775

The following table shows the balance of trade as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports during the quinquennial period 1927–1931 :—

Year.	*Exports.* Rs.	*Imports.* Rs.	*Excess of Exports over Imports.* Rs.
1927	2,155,461	1,829,710	325,751
1928	2,434,330	1,744,719	689,611
1929	2,143,743	1,813,283	330,460
1930	2,048,967	1,631,077	417,890
1931	1,102,713	1,069,958	32,755

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

Countries.	*Exports.* Rs.	*Imports.* Rs.
United Kingdom ...	519,210	326,107
India	93,214	373,247
France	48,097	85,080
United States of America	255,803	1,218

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1930 and 1931 was as follows :—

	1930 Rs.	1931 Rs.
United Kingdom ...	200,200	451,251
India	78,630	93,214
South Africa ...	536,770	—
Germany	40,900	23,250
Norway	264,550	82,725
France	85,080	3,375
Mauritius	3,320	12,039
	Rs.1,209,450	Rs.665,854

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same periods was :

	1930. Rs.	1931. Rs.
United Kingdom ...	18,203	18,585
United States of America	328,522	255,363
France	5,611	11,064
Germany	—	8,288
French Possessions ...	1,005	—
	Rs.353,341	Rs.293,300

The value of guano exported for the same periods was :—

	1930.	1931.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	—	18,000
Ceylon	40,000	13,200
Kenya	5,665	4,900
Mauritius	30,498	9,250
New Zealand	165,000	18,000
French Possessions	14,900	—
Belgium	120,000	—
Total ...	Rs.376,063	Rs.63,350

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*	*Hong Kong.*	*Total.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1930 ...	24,932	70,978	64,049	1,612	—	161,571
1931 ...	16,293	42,600	33,921	63	3,837	96,714

The supply of cotton piece-goods in yards for the last five years is as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*
	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.	Yards.
1927 ...	64,772	620,418	159,220	3,719
1928 ...	38,810	521,935	137,350	1,949
1929 ...	89,066	456,254	202,233	3,100
1930 ...	57,587	297,718	396,485	1,389
1931 ...	55,997	173,727	209,807	160

General Course of Prices.

Both the prices of imported and exported articles have fallen.

Copra which was Rs.145 the ton in January fell to Rs.100 in June, to rise to Rs.180 in December. Essential oil (cinnamon) fell from Rs.5.75 a litre to Rs.3. Caret (tortoise-shell) was sold

throughout the year at Rs.16 a kilo, Essential oil distillation has made great strides of recent years, but is now seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case also with copra, the principal industry. Approximately one-third of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs.326,107). India supplied 2,438¾ tons of rice (Rs.233,881). The general fall in prices is a reflection of the world-wide trade depression.

CHAPTER VIII.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally verbal, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into consideration the cost of living, the average being Rs.8 per month—equal to 100 lb. of rice, the staple foodstuff. Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation; they earn Rs.4 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are excellent. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is:—men, Rs.4; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them, on their return to Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations, friends, and the sharks of a seaport town.

Cost of Living of Officials.

(*Family of 2 adults and 2 children.*)

The rent of houses is Rs.40 to Rs.60 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows:—cooks Rs.20 to Rs.30, house boys Rs.15 to Rs.20, maid servants Rs.6 to Rs.8, washerwomen Rs.12 to Rs.15, gardeners Rs.16 to Rs.20. The average cost of living (per month) is as follows:—

	Rs.
Rent	45
Food	150
Cook	20
Boy	15
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Gardener	16
Fuel	8
Lighting	20
School books and fees	20
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	25
Charities...	5
Taxes	20
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	50
Bedding and household utensils, etc.	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.462

No assistance towards the cost of passages for leave is granted by the Government.

Average Rate of Wages for Labour.

	Per annum.	*Per day of 8 hours.*	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.*
Agricultural :—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Overseers ...	500—720	—	—
Gardeners ...	144—192	—	1·00 per day.
Labourers ...	96—120	1·00	1·50 per night.
Domestic Service :—			
Predial	120—180	—	—
Domestic ...	120—300	—	—
Trade and Manufacture :—			
Carpenters ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths ...	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.8 to Rs.10 per month.

CHAPTER IX.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 26 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 19 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,182 pupils (965 boys and 1,217 girls); the average attendance in 1931 was 1,672·5 or 76·6 per cent.; the remaining 7 schools are Church of England schools with 409 pupils (219 boys and 190 girls); the average attendance was 320·5 or 78·3 per cent. The churches receive an annual Government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1931 was 201. St. Joseph's Convent School affords education to 100 girls up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

A scholarship of the annual value, free of income-tax, either of Rs.1,200 (approximately £90) tenable for 5 years or of Rs.1,500 (approximately £110) tenable for 4 years, together with a free passage to England and back on completion of studies, is awarded every second year to a scholar, under the age of 19, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London Matriculation Examination to the candidate who has passed in the first division and is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.19,600.

A benevolent society, known as "La Ligue de Secours," supported by private donations, also gives some assistance.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band.

Music is taught at St. Joseph's Convent School.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

An occasional cinema exhibition is given but, owing to various causes, new films are difficult to get.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Dances and concerts are given by these.

The visit of a warship generally twice a year from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

CHAPTER X.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been and are continuing to be constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. It is hoped, within the next two years, to complete the roads of the main island and of Praslin and La Digue. The smaller islands are owned or leased by individual planters who make their own arrangements in this regard. A grant is being given from the Colonial Development Fund of £7,500 for the construction of roads, on the £1 for £1 principle.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and larger sailing ships, of which there are 8, ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves as a bi-weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

A wireless station is attached to the Postal Department. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it has been found useful for communication with visiting ships. An ancillary station is being established on the island of Praslin.

Mail and Postal Service.

The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.20,637·33 and the expenditure to Rs.22,831·00. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 37 occasions. The British India Company's steamers call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals. Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.

The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

CHAPTER XI.

BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount on deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.203,752, an increase of Rs.4,219 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchases and sells Drafts and undertakes the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

Currency.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation :— silver 50-cent pieces and 25-cent pieces. Mauritius currency notes of Rs.50, Rs.10, and Rs.5, and silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5, 2, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes are being withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values :—Rs.50, Rs.10, Rs.5, Re.1, and one-half rupee. The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1931, amounted to Rs.232,567 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as :—

(1) *L'aune*, a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metres.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare, for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette*, employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tiercon*, a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt*, a measure of capacity for coco-nut oil = 7·57 litres.

(6) *The cord*, used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

CHAPTER XII.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. This officer is also Chairman of the Victoria Town Board. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengering work are done by contract. The construction of motor roads was the principal work undertaken

during the year. Most of the work has been done by contract at a very reasonable rate and to the satisfaction of the Government and the Road Advisory Board, which consists of three private residents nominated by the Governor.

CHAPTER XIII.

JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

The Police Magistrate holds his Court in Victoria. He exercises a limited jurisdiction over minor offences. The maximum punishment he can inflict is a fine of Rs.250 and imprisonment for two months.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers, the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court.

Police.

The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1931 of :— 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 3 Sergeants, 10 Corporals, 78 Constables.

There are 11 Police Stations in Mahe, 3 in Praslin, and 1 at La Digue.

Criminal Statistics for 1931.—

	Total Numbers.			
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned.*
Supreme Court ...	146	92	40	35
Summary Courts ...	1,352	1,154	1,116	17

Thirteen male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment and 10 persons were bound over. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prisons.

The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coco-nut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work.

The health of the prisoners is excellent.

In 1931, the daily average number in prison amounted to 31·4 men and 3·1 women.

CHAPTER XIV.

LEGISLATION.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no factory or workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Ordinances passed in 1931.—

1. Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance, 1931.
2. Ordinance to amend the Law upon Incomes.
   Alteration of termination of year for assessment of income for tax purposes.
3. To further extend the jurisdiction of the Justices of the Peace.
   Empowers Justices of the Peace to try:—
   Unlawful Possession / Simple Larceny — When value of articles which are the subject of the prosecutions does not amount to more than Rs.10.
   Assaulting Public Functionary and Resisting Arrest.
4. To Control Communications with Leper Asylums.
5. To provide means for the prevention of malaria within the Colony.
6. To amend the Seychelles Scholarship Ordinance, 1927.
7. To enable the Governor to appoint Commissioners to enquire into and report on matters referred to them by the Governor in Executive Council.

8. To amend the Motor Ordinance, 1929 :—

   Prescribing the registration of Motor Vehicles in accordance with Regulations.

9. To amend the Barristers and Attorneys Ordinance, 1923 :—

   Enabling a Law Agent admitted to practice in Scotland to practise in the Colony.

10. To amend the Control of Communications with Leper Asylums Ordinance, 1931 :—

    Substitution for the words "any island or the sea surrounding it or any place" in Ordinance No. 4 of 1931 of a more precise definition.

11. To amend the Savings Bank Ordinance, 1902 :—

    Providing withdrawals from the Bank by cheques to third-parties, etc.

12. To regulate and impose a tax on land planted in sugar-cane :—

    Limiting the area of sugar-cane plantations to 800 square feet, necessary corollary of Ordinance No. 13 of 1931. (In abeyance).

13. To prohibit the manufacture and sale of the drink called "Bacca". (In abeyance).

14. Appropriation Ordinance, 1932.

CHAPTER XV.

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs.692,412, being a deficit on the estimate of Rs.5,114. The expenditure amounted to Rs.753,911, showing an excess of Rs.96,176 on the estimate. In addition, a sum of Rs.60,440 was expended on capital services from surplus funds.

The following statement shows the revenue for each of the last five years :—

	Rs.
1927	736,885
1928	751,633
1929	762,061
1930	754,173
1931	692,412

The following statement shows the expenditure for each of the last five years :—

	Ordinary.	*From Surplus Funds.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1927	663,266	—
1928	731,672	—
1929	715,640	51,549
1930	709,345	128,722
1931	753,911	60,440

Customs brought in the greater part of the revenue, i.e., Rs.227,909.

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years :—

	Customs.	*Taxes.*	*Other Sources.*	*Total.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1927	339,324	197,764	199,797	736,885
1928	325,704	188,757	237,169	751,633
1929	387,228	203,842	170,991	762,061
1930	356,792	196,749	200,632	754,173
1931	227,909	174,069	290,434	692,412

Public Debt.

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 1st January, 1931, was Rs.494,607. On 31st December, 1931, the amount had decreased to Rs.372,669 owing to expenditure on capital services, such as roads, and to the deficit in the budget for the year.

Taxation.

No change was made in the method of raising revenue, or alteration in the rate of taxation during the year. The following are the main heads of taxation :—

Customs Tariff.—The *ad valorem* duty is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on food-stuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 cent. of a rupee per degree of alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano, mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers ; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil ; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark.

Details of *Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc.*, are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A *Rural House Tax* of ½ per cent. is imposed with certain exceptions on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be fifty cents of a rupee whenever the value of such house is less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of ⅝ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

Income-Tax.—This is payable at the following rates :—

When income is less than Rs.1,000 the rate shall be 1 per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of Rs.2.

When income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more :—

2	per cent.	on the	1st	Rs.1,000	or part thereof.	
2½	,,	,,	2nd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
3	,,	,,	3rd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
3½	,,	,,	4th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
4	,,	,,	5th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
4½	,,	,,	6th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
5	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.6,000	up to	Rs.15,000.
5½	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.15,000 ,,	Rs.20,000.
6	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.20,000.	

CHAPTER XVI.

GENERAL.

The trade depression continues though there has been a small rise in the price of copra, the main product of the Colony. In the case of most planters, their estates are mortgaged and, owing to the fall in the prices of their products, they are experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations. Labourers' wages have been reduced but, on the whole, for those willing to work employment has been available and planters generally have allowed and encouraged them to grow crops themselves, such as sweet potatoes, manioc, etc., which, together with rice (imported) and fish, which are very abundant, form their staple diet. The trade figures given above indicate to what extent the trade of the Colony has suffered. A beneficial effect of the depression has been to impress on the planters the necessity of better and more intensive cultivation, to which many are now applying themselves in so far as their circumstances permit. Early in the year the Secretary of State for the Colonies sent Mr. F. A. Stockdale, C.M.G., C.B.E., Agricultural Adviser to the Colonial Office, to advise planters in the Colony. His visit had a heartening effect and certain recommendations made by him for further expert advice and assistance have been approved by the Secretary of State and are being carried out.

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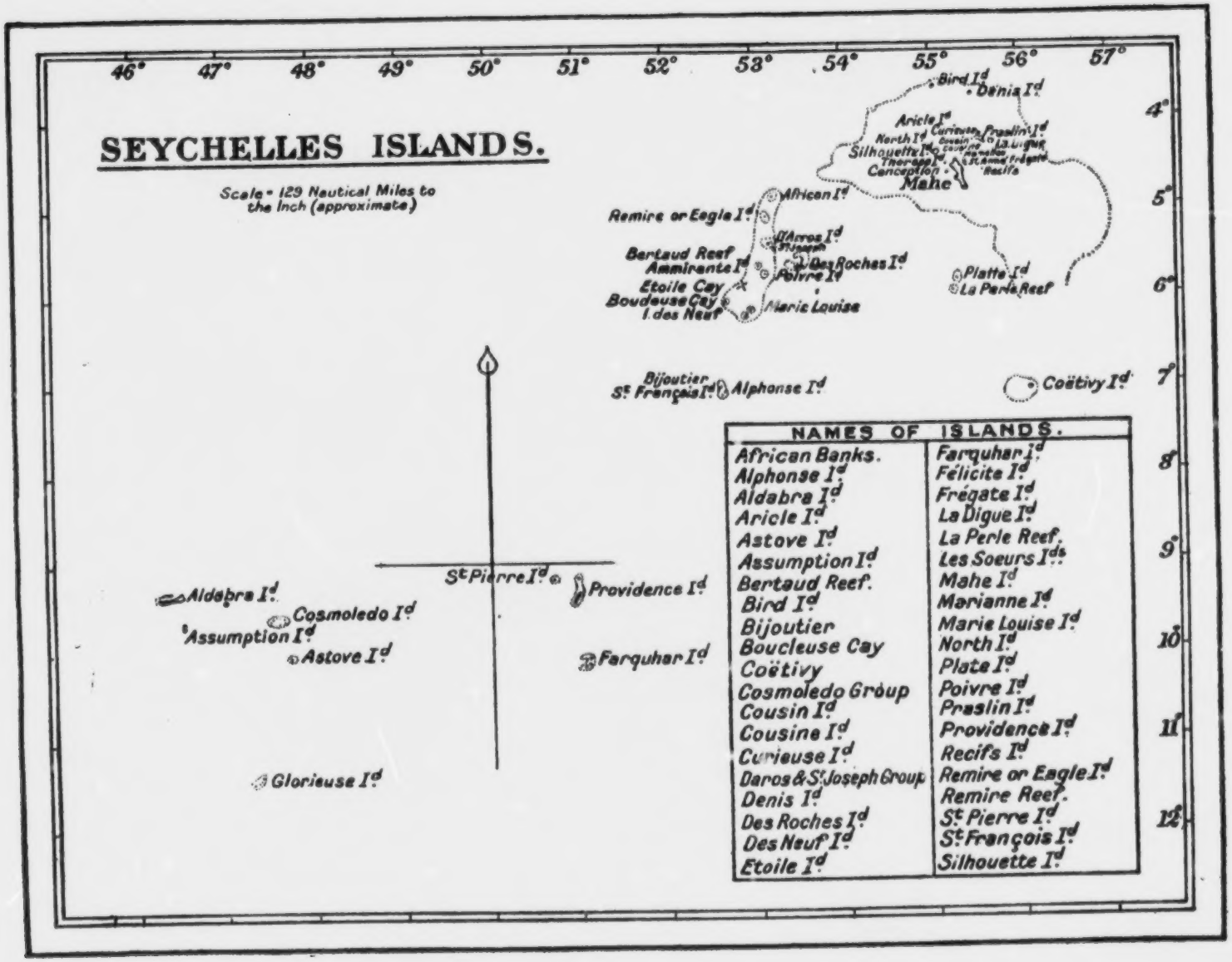

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES, 1932

(For Reports for 1930 and 1931 see Nos. 1560 and 1609 respectively, price 1s. 0d. each)

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony comprises 92 islands situated between the 4th and 10th parallels of South latitude, their aggregate area being estimated at $156\frac{1}{4}$ square miles.

Mahe is the central and largest of the islands, lying upon a submerged bank. It is the seat of Government and contains about 22,000 of the population out of an estimated total of 28,235. It has only one harbour, upon which is situated the town of Victoria where approximately one-third of the inhabitants of the island live, the remainder living in hamlets or on estates.

The area of the island is 55 square miles. It is of rugged granite formation, rising steeply from the sea to a central dividing range of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in altitude.

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The islands of Madagascar and Mauritius and the African coast (Mombasa) are each approximately 1,000 miles distant.

The other principal islands on the bank, also mostly of granite formation, are :—Praslin (9,700 acres) ; Silhouette (4,900 acres) ; La Digue (2,500 acres) ; Curieuse (900 acres) ; Frigate (700 acres) ; Felicite (689 acres) ; North Island (525 acres) ; Ste. Anne (500 acres) ; Denis (340 acres) ; Cerf (290 acres) ; and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The outlying islands are of coral formation. They extend to the 10th degree of South latitude, the farthest away and the most interesting, Aldabra, being 650 miles distant from Mahe. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map at the end of this Report.

Climate.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the south-east trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the year, the north-west monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86°F. but seldom falls below 74°F. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name the islands originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe after Mahe de Labourdonnais. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, M. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. M. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element of the population, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of the Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the high seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council, and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as President, three senior Departmental Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a

period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council and one Unofficial Member. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of the Eastern Telegraph Company, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

A census was taken on 26th April, 1931, shewing a total population at that date of 27,444 (13,289 males and 14,155 females), with a distribution as follows:—

Mahe	21,712
Neighbouring islands	4,240
Outlying islands	1,492

The following are the more vital statistics for the year:—

	1932	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1931	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	874	30·95	829	29·83
Deaths	363	12·86	376	13·53
Marriages	185	6·55	194	6·98
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year)	72	82·38*	68	82·03*
Emigration	447	15·83	395	14·21
Immigration	385	13·63	502	18·06

* Rate per 1,000 births.

The census of 1931 was the fifth taken in the Colony. The following figures of population shew the rates of increase per decennial period:—

1891.	*1901.*	*1911.*	*1921.*	*1931.*
16,440	19,237	22,691	24,523	27,444

These figures may be taken to indicate increases by birth, since neither immigration nor emigration is on a large scale and, roughly, the numbers balance each other.

IV.—HEALTH.

The health of the population generally is good. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never established itself, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox. There was no epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years, do any of the above diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygienic principles is important, especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized, and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff, under the Chief Medical Officer, consists of a Resident Surgeon, who is also in charge of an X-ray and Electric Department, a Surgeon Dentist, four Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), one Head Midwife and Matron of the Maternity Section, and seven Probationary Nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year, 868 cases were treated in the Seychelles Government Hospital.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene and it is hoped later on to supplement the ordinary teaching by the exhibition of films.

Leprosy shows a slight improvement as compared with the previous year; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A leper settlement has been established on an island of 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Forty-six lepers are isolated in the settlements and 43 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. Visits of relatives are allowed under appropriate conditions. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits and pigeons.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. At present there are 24 inmates as compared with 20 at the end of the previous year.

Tuberculosis also shows a slight improvement. A modern tuberculosis ward, situated in the hospital grounds, was completed during the year 1931 for the isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of the islands are planted with coconuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,500 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known locally as "Decoque", is met with. The Government hopes when conditions permit to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

V.—HOUSING.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coconut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1*s.* 6*d.*) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more thrifty among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coconut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The chief exports of the Colony are the products of the coconut. The net export values of these products for 1932 were as follows :—

	Rs.
Coconut oil (10,431 litres) ...	2,917
Copra (4,680½ tons)	789,805

Cinnamon, a jungle tree, is still exploited for its essential oil, which, in spite of the fluctuation of price, remains the export product, second in importance, with an output of 49,669¼ kilos, exported

mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.188,476. Cinnamon bark exports amounted to 97½ tons, of a value of Rs.7,816. 2,424 kilos of patchouli oil, valued at Rs.23,106, were also exported. Basilic oil (Ocimum basilicum) was also distilled on a very small scale, yielding 3 kilos with an export value of Rs.60. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 1,266 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.2,902. The Colony is well adapted for the development of fisheries. Two million pounds of fresh fish, representing Rs.800,000, are captured per annum for local consumption. 2,337 kilos of turtle strips worth Rs.3,228, 5,743 kilos of calipee worth Rs.11,762, 504 kilos of green turtle-shell worth Rs.379, were exported in 1932. The other fishery products are tortoise-shell, 1,434 kilos valued at Rs. 25,139, and tripangs 4,107 kilos valued at Rs.3,130. 55,240 kilos of birds' eggs yolk and albumen liquid worth Rs.12,323 were also produced.

Phosphatic guano was exported to the United Kingdom, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, India, France, and Germany to the amount of 14,213 tons valued at Rs.263,575.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and intrusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands cover an area of about 13,597 acres. Land under forest stretching over 2,500 acres, one-fifth of which is under commercial timber, produced timber for the local market. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and banana, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas totalling over 500 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other live-stock comprise: horses, 100; asses, 100; cattle, 1,000; goats, 300. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows:—

Produce.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	lb.	Rs.
Meat	70,000	28,000
Hides (mostly from calves)	4,698	350
Pork meat	36,000	12,960
Turtle meat	45,000	14,850

Every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both. Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

Farm labourers under 15 years numbered ...	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over numbered...	6,141
Fishermen numbered	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals or small companies.

There is little cultivation beyond some manioc, pumpkins, etc., for their own use, by persons of non-European descent. These make no effort to save any part of their wages and so with few exceptions own no land. Those of mixed blood do not differ in enterprise from the pure-blooded descendants of the early settlers.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1932 amounted to Rs.2,355,449, being an increase of Rs.182,778 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.1,008,111, a decrease of Rs.61,747 as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.1,347,338, an increase of Rs.244,625 compared with the year 1931.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1932 :—

	Rs.
Trade imports	989,242
Government imports	18,869
	1,008,111
Domestic exports and re-exports	1,351,083
Excess of exports and re-exports over imports ...	Rs.342,972

The following table shows the balance of trade as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports during the quinquennial period 1928–1932 :—

	Exports.	*Imports.*	*Excess of Exports over Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1928	2,434,330	1,744,719	689,611
1929	2,143,743	1,813,283	330,460
1930	2,048,967	1,631,077	417,890
1931	1,102,713	1,069,958	32,755
1932	1,347,338	1,008,111	339,227

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

Countries.	*Exports.*	*Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	348,161	273,166
India	522,543	358,358
France	77,331	60,360
United States of America	170,402	1,377
Japan	—	93,878

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1931 and 1932 was as follows :—

	1931.	1932.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	451,251	245,104
India	93,214	495,194
Germany	23,250	—
Norway	82,725	45,432
France	3,375	—
Mauritius	12,039	3,200
Portuguese Possessions	—	875
	Rs.665,854	Rs.789,805

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same period was :—

	1931.	1932.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	18,585	22,787
United States of America	255,463	170,002
France	11,064	4,760
Germany	8,288	15,428
Kenya	—	360
	Rs.293,400	Rs.213,337

The quantity and value of guano exported for the same period was :—

	1931.		1932.	
	Quantity. *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.	*Quantity.* *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.
United Kingdom	1,200	18,000	1,553	31,060
Ceylon	880	13,200	—	—
Kenya	275	4,900	140	2,100
Mauritius ...	875	9,250	1,750	33,130
New Zealand ...	1,500	18,000	6,530	114,250
India	—	—	1,224	24,360
France	—	—	2,994	58,645
Germany ...	—	—	2	30
Total ...	4,730	63,350	14,213	263,575

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows :—

	United Kingdom. Rs.	*India.* Rs.	*Japan* Rs.	*France.* Rs.	*Hong Kong.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1931 ...	16,293	42,600	33,921	63	3,837	96,714
1932 ...	19,295	33,260	72,651	—	—	125,206

The supply of cotton piece-goods in yards for the last five years was as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*
1928 ...	38,810	521,935	137,350	1,949
1929 ...	89,066	456,254	202,233	3,100
1930 ...	57,587	297,718	396,485	1,389
1931 ...	55,997	173,727	209,807	160
1932 ...	67,602	135,786	554,373	—

General Course of Prices.

The price of imported articles has fallen all round while the price of exported articles has shown an appreciable rise in the case of copra and guano as compared with the previous year.

Copra which was Rs. 175 the ton in January and Rs. 210 in February fell to Rs. 150 in June to rise to Rs. 165 in December as compared with Rs. 145, Rs. 150, Rs. 100, and Rs. 180 for the corresponding months of the year 1931.

Essential oil (cinnamon leaf) which was Rs. 4·50 the litre in January and Rs. 4·25 in February fell to Rs. 3 a litre in June to rise to Rs. 4 in December as compared with Rs. 5·75, Rs. 6, Rs. 4·25, and Rs. 3 for the corresponding months of the previous year.

Caret (tortoise-shell) was sold throughout the year at Rs. 16 a kilo. Essential oil distillation has made great strides of recent years, but is now very seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case also with copra, the principal industry. Approximately one-fourth of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs. 273,166). India supplied 2,569¼ tons of rice (Rs. 234,736).

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally verbal, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into consideration the cost of living, the average being Rs.8 per month—equal to 115 lb. of rice, the staple foodstuff. Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation; they earn Rs.4 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are excellent. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is:—men, Rs.4; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them, on their return to Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations, friends, and the sharks of a seaport town.

Cost of Living of Officials.

(*Family of 2 adults and 2 children*).

The rent of houses is Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows: cooks Rs. 20 to Rs. 30, house boys Rs. 10 to Rs. 15, maid servants

Rs. 6 to Rs. 8, washerwomen Rs. 12 to Rs. 15, gardeners Rs. 12 to Rs. 15. The average cost of living per month is as follows :—

	Rs.
Rent	45
Food	150
Cook	20
Boy	10
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Lighting	20
Gardener	12
Fuel	8
School books and fees	20
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	25
Charities...	5
Taxes	15
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	25
Bedding and household utensils, etc.	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.423

No assistance towards the cost of passages for leave is granted by the Government.

Average Rate of Wages for Labour.

	Per annum.	*Per day of 8 hours.*	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.*
Agricultural :—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Overseers ...	500—720	—	—
Gardeners ...	144—192	—	1·00 per day.
Labourers ...	96—120	1·00	1·50 per night.
Domestic Service :—			
Predial	120—180	—	—
Domestic ...	120—300	—	—
Trade and Manufacture :—			
Carpenters ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths ...	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.8 to Rs.10 per month.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 25 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 18 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,179 pupils (954 boys and 1,225 girls); the average attendance in 1932 was 1,713 or 78·6 per cent.; the remaining schools are Church of England schools with 421 pupils (231 boys and 190 girls); the average attendance was 347·2 or 82·5 per cent. The Churches receive an annual Government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1932 was 183. St. Joseph's Convent School affords education to 97 girls (and 10 small boys) up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

A scholarship of the annual value, free of income-tax, either of Rs.1,200 (approximately £90) tenable for 5 years or of Rs.1,500 (approximately £110) tenable for 4 years, together with a free passage to England and back on completion of studies, is awarded every second year to a scholar, under the age of 19, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London Matriculation Examination to the candidate who has passed in the first division and is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.20,691.

A benevolent society, known as "La Ligue de Secours," supported by private donations, also gives some assistance.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Dances and concerts are given by these.

The visit of a warship, generally twice a year, from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. It is hoped, when conditions improve, to complete the roads of the main island and of Praslin and La Digue. The smaller islands are owned or leased by individual planters who make their own arrangements in this regard. A grant has been made from the Colonial Development Fund of £7,500 for construction of roads, on the £1 for £1 basis, but the financial situation of the Colony at the moment has precluded the Government from taking full advantage of the grant.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing and auxiliary coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and large sailing and auxiliary ships ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves mainly as a bi-weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

Communication with the outer world is maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company's mail steamers which call at Port Victoria once every four weeks *en route* from Bombay to Mombasa and East African ports, and once every eight weeks on their return voyage from Mombasa to Bombay.

Steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line call at Mahe once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Penang and Batavia.

Steamers of the Scandinavian East African Line call at Mahe approximately every two months on their way from Madagascar ports to Europe.

The above-mentioned are the regular callers, whilst others (steamers and sailing ships) call at Mahe occasionally for various ports.

A low-power wireless station is attached to the Postal Department. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it is mainly useful for communication with vessels calling at Port Victoria although, owing to its geographical position with respect to certain sea routes, an increasing number of vessels passing within range signal the station and frequently make use of it for traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.

The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.21,293 and the expenditure to Rs.18,052. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 54 occasions. The regular mail service is performed by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers which call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return

journey once every eight weeks. This service has been supplemented by the steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line which call once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Penang and Batavia. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

In October the Post Office commenced the despatch of air mails to Europe, the near East, and those African territories on the London—Cape Town air route. The transit of mails to Europe by air via Karachi and Nairobi takes approximately 16 days and 11 days respectively, as compared with 21 days and 25 days approximately for mails by steamer alone via Bombay and Mombasa.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.

The Eastern and South African Telegraph Company maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount of deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.162,452·08, a decrease of Rs.41,300 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchases and sells Drafts and undertakes the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

Currency.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation :— silver 50-cent pieces and 25-cent pieces. Mauritius currency notes of Rs.50, Rs.10, and Rs.5, and silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5 and 2 cents, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes are being withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values :—Rs.50, Rs.10, Rs.5, Re.1, and one-half rupee. The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1932, amounted to Rs.250,067 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as :—

(1) *L'aune*, a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metres.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette*, employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tiercon*, a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt*, a measure of capacity for coconut oil = 7·57 litres.

(6) *The cord*, used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. This officer is also Chairman of the Victoria Town Board. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengering work are done by contract. The maintenance and repair of public buildings and roads constituted the principal activities of the Department during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

The Police Magistrate holds his Court in Victoria. He exercises a limited jurisdiction over minor offences. The maximum punishment he can inflict is a fine of Rs.250 and imprisonment for two months.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers, the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In certain circumstances appeals lie, and points of law may be referred, to the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

Police.

The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1932 of :— 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Sergeants, 10 Corporals, 72 Constables.

There are 12 Police stations in Mahe, 3 in Praslin, and 1 at La Digue.

Criminal Statistics for 1932 :—

	Total Numbers.			
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned.*
Supreme Court ...	173	109	46	46
Summary Courts ...	1,105	839	804	18

Twenty male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment and 16 persons were bound over. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prisons.

The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coconut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work.

The health of the prisoners was excellent.

In 1932, the daily average number in prison amounted to 25·6 men and 1·3 women.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no factory or workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Ordinances passed in 1932 :—

1. To amend the Licences Ordinance, 1923.
2. To amend the Customs (Management) Ordinance, 1899. Empowering the Governor to prohibit, by *Gazette* notice, the importation into the Colony of any article as shall be deemed expedient.
3. To amend the Paper Currency Ordinance, 1928. Creating a fund to provide security for currency notes in circulation.
4. Supplementary Appropriation Ordinance.
5. To amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1900.
6. To amend the Pensions Consolidation Ordinance, 1902. Providing for the payment of gratuity and reduced pension to certain officers who failed to exercise for such within the prescribed delay.
7. To allow Trade Unions and to provide for their registration.
8. To regulate immigration into the Colony and to provide for the deportation of aliens and undesirable immigrants.
9. To make further provision for the Public Service for the year 1932.
10. To amend and consolidate the tariff under which duties are levied on goods imported into or exported from the Colony.
    Granting preferential treatment in respect of goods of Empire origin.
11. To control the export of patchouli oil.
12. To carry out certain Conventions relating to the employment of women, young persons, and children.
13. To amend the Seychelles Scholarship Ordinance.
14. To amend the Fisheries Ordinance, 1929.
    Regulating fishing in the " reserves."
15. To amend the Outlying Islands Labour Ordinance, 1909. Regulating the employment of labour on the outlying islands of the Colony.
16. To empower the Governor to frame regulations for the Harbour.

17. To amend the Masters and Mates Certificates Ordinance, 1920.
18. To amend the Patents Ordinance, 1901, and the Registration of United Kingdom Designs Ordinance, 1929.
19. To amend the Paper Currency Ordinance, 1928.
20. To provide for the Service of the Colony of Seychelles for the year 1933.
21. To amend the Savings Bank (Amendment) Ordinance, 1931.
22. To give power to the Governor in Council to regulate wages.
23. To amend the Leprosy Ordinance, 1909.
24. To amend the Crown Lands and River Reserves Ordinance, 1903.
25. To amend the Patchouli Oil Ordinance, 1932.
26. To provide for the registration of clubs wherein intoxicating liquor is supplied and for their regulation.
27. To amend the Travelling Allowance Ordinance, 1900.
28. To make provision for the levying of harbour dues.
29. To regulate the practice of dentistry.
30. To amend the Trade Unions Ordinance, 1932.
31. To amend the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, 1927.
32. To amend the law relating to certain taxes on properties.
33. To amend Ordinance No. 7 of 1923, "An Ordinance to impose a tax upon income and to regulate the collection thereof."
34. To further amend and consolidate the tariff under which duties are levied on goods imported into or exported from the Colony.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs.701,164, being an excess on the estimate of Rs.6,538. The expenditure amounted to Rs.681,446, shewing an excess of Rs.3,666 on the estimate. In addition a sum of Rs.4,185 was expended on capital services from surplus funds.

The following statement shows the revenue for each of the last five years :—

	Rs.
1928	751,633
1929	762,061
1930	754,173
1931	692,412
1932	701,164

The following statement shows the expenditure for each of the last five years :—

	Ordinary. Rs.	*From Surplus Funds.* Rs.
1928	731,672	—
1929	715,640	51,549
1930	709,345	128,722
1931	753,911	60,440
1932	681,446	4,185

Customs brought in the greater part of the revenue, i.e., Rs.252,531.

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years :—

	Customs. Rs.	*Taxes.* Rs.	*Other Sources.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1928	325,704	188,757	237,169	751,633
1929	387,228	203,842	170,991	762,061
1930	356,792	196,749	200,632	754,173
1931	227,909	174,069	290,434	692,412
1932	252,531	164,319	284,314	701,164

Public Debt.

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 1st January, 1932, was Rs.372,669. On the 31st December, 1932, the amount had increased to Rs.388,201, owing to suspension of expenditure on capital services, such as roads, and to the small surplus in the budget for the year.

Taxation.

No change was made in the method of raising revenue, but various alterations in the rate of taxation were made. The following are the main heads of taxation :—

Customs Tariff.—An Ordinance was passed in July granting a minimum preference of 10 per cent. in respect of goods of Empire origin, the *ad valorem* duty on which is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on food-stuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 cent of a rupee per degree of alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano, mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark.

Details of *Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc.*, are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A *Rural House Tax* of ½ per cent. is imposed with certain exceptions on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be fifty cents of a rupee whenever the value of such house is less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of ⅝ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

Income-Tax.—This is payable at the following rates :—

When income is less than Rs.1,000 the rate shall be 1 per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of Rs.2.

When income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more :—

2	per cent.	on the	1st	Rs.1,000	or part thereof.	
2½	,,	,,	2nd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
3	,,	,,	3rd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
3½	,,	,,	4th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
4	,,	,,	5th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
4½	,,	,,	6th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
5	,,	,,	excess over Rs.6,000 up to Rs.15,000.			
5½	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.15,000 ,,	Rs.20,000.
6	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.20,000.	

XVI.—GENERAL.

In spite of the general trade depression there has been a small rise in the price of copra, the main product of the Colony, and the price of guano, the export of which ranked second in order of value, also showed an appreciable rise. Most planters' estates are mortgaged and, owing to falls in the prices of their products, the planters are experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations. Labourers' wages have been reduced but, on the whole, for those willing to work, employment has been available. Planters generally have allowed and encouraged their labourers to grow crops themselves, such as sweet potatoes, manioc, etc., which, together with rice (imported) and fish (which are very abundant) form their staple diet. The trade figures given above indicate the extent to which the trade of the Colony has recovered. A beneficial effect of the depression has been to impress on the planters the necessity for better and more intensive cultivation, to which many are now applying themselves in so far as their circumstances permit.

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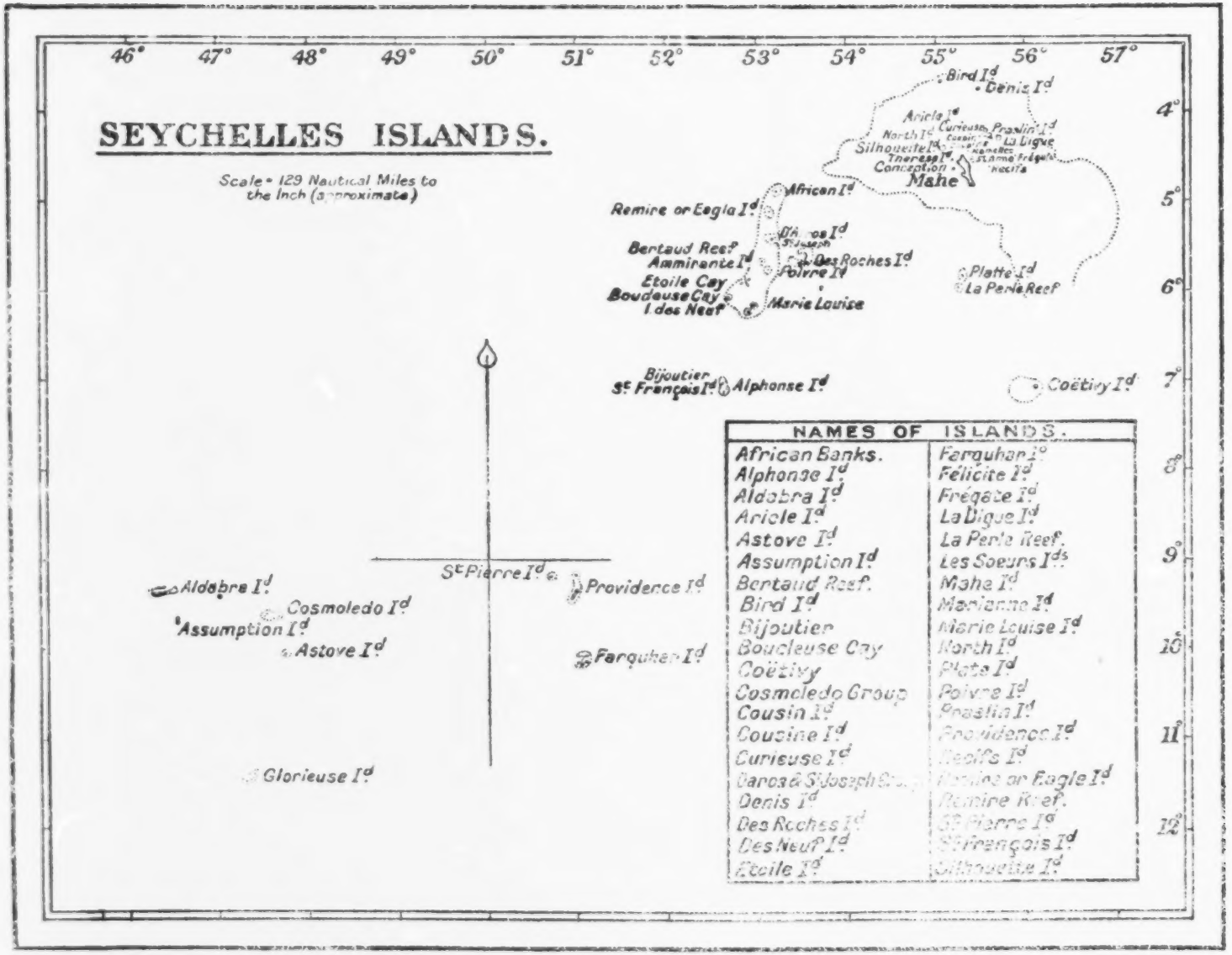
out of print.

The Annual Blue Book and the Annual Reports of the several Government Departments may be obtained from the Governor's Office, or from the Crown Agents in London, at various prices. The Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Colony of Seychelles is also obtainable at the Governor's Office or, in London, from His Majesty's Stationery Office (price varies from year to year).

* Copies may be seen in the Library of the Colonial Office.



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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES FOR 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony comprises 92 islands situated between the 4th and 10th parallels of South latitude, their aggregate area being estimated at 156¼ square miles.

Mahe is the central and largest of the islands, lying upon a submerged bank. It is the seat of Government and contains about 22,000 of the population out of an estimated total of 28,235. It has only one harbour, upon which is situated the town of Victoria where approximately one-third of the inhabitants of the island live, the remainder living in hamlets or on estates.

The area of the island is 55 square miles. It is of rugged granite formation, rising steeply from the sea to a central dividing range of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet in altitude.

The islands of Madagascar and Mauritius and the African coast (Mombasa) are each approximately 1,000 miles distant.

The other principal islands on the bank, also mostly of granite formation, are :—Praslin (9,700 acres) ; Silhouette (4,900 acres) ; La Digue (2,500 acres) ; Curieuse (900 acres) ; Frigate (700 acres) ; Felicite (689 acres) ; North Island (525 acres) ; Ste. Anne (500 acres) ; Denis (340 acres) ; Cerf (290 acres) ; and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

The outlying islands are of coral formation. They extend to the 10th degree of South latitude, the farthest away and the most interesting, Aldabra, being 650 miles distant from Mahe. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map at the end of this Report.

Climate.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the south-east trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the year, the north-west monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86°F. but seldom falls below 74°F. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name the islands originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe after Mahe de Labourdonnais. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, M. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. M. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of the Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element of the population, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of the Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the high seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council, and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as President, three senior Departmental Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a

period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council and one Unofficial Member. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of Cable and Wireless, Limited, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

A census was taken on 26th April, 1931, showing a total population at that date of 27,444 (13,289 males and 14,155 females), with a distribution as follows:—

Mahe	21,712
Neighbouring islands	4,240
Outlying islands	1,492

The following are the more vital statistics for the year as compared with those for 1932:—

	1932	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1933	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	874	30·95	821	28·57
Deaths	363	12·86	346	12·04
Marriages	185	6·55	180	6·26
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year)	72	82·38*	67	81·61*
Emigration	447	15·83	361	12·56
Immigration	385	13·63	382	13·29

* Rate per 1,000 births.

The census of 1931 was the fifth taken in the Colony. The following figures of population show the rates of increase per decennial period:—

1891.	*1901.*	*1911.*	*1921.*	*1931.*
16,440	19,237	22,691	24,523	27,444

These figures may be taken to indicate increases by birth, since neither immigration nor emigration is on a large scale and, roughly, the numbers balance each other.

IV.—HEALTH.

The health of the population generally is good. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never established itself, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox. There was no epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years, do any of the above diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygienic principles is important, especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized, and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff, under the Chief Medical Officer, consists of a Resident Surgeon, who is also in charge of an X-ray and Electro-Therapeutic Department, a Surgeon Dentist, three Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), one Head Midwife and Matron of the Maternity Section, and seven Probationary Nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year, 949 cases were treated in the Seychelles Government Hospital.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene.

Leprosy shows a slight improvement as compared with the previous year; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A leper settlement has been established on an island of 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Forty-three lepers are isolated in the settlements and 45 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. Visits of relatives are allowed under appropriate conditions. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits and pigeons.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. At present there are 25 inmates as compared with 24 at the end of the previous year.

Tuberculosis also shows a slight improvement. A modern tuberculosis ward, situated in the hospital grounds, was completed during the year 1931 for the isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of the islands are planted with coconuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,500 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known locally as "Decoque", is met with. The Government hopes when conditions permit to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

V.—HOUSING.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coconut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1*s.* 6*d.*) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more thrifty among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coconut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The chief exports of the Colony are the products of the coconut. The net export values of these products for 1933 were as follows :—

	Rs.
Coconut oil (8,051 litres)	2,000
Copra (3,216¾ tons)	408,315

Cinnamon, a jungle tree, is exploited for its essential oil, which, in spite of the fluctuation of price, remains the export product second in importance, with an output of 60,684 kilos, exported

mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.201,156. Cinnamon bark exports amounted to 64¼ tons, of a value of Rs.5,170. 614½ kilos of patchouli oil, valued at Rs.5,865, were also exported. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 453 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.1,032. The Colony is well adapted for the development of fisheries. Two million pounds of fresh fish, representing Rs.800,000, are captured per annum for local consumption. 1,580 kilos of turtle strips worth Rs.3,140, 4,788 kilos of calipee worth Rs.8,415, and 514 kilos of green turtle-shell worth Rs.928, were exported in 1933. The other fishery products are tortoise-shell, 1,191 kilos valued at Rs. 25,401, and tripangs, 1,933 kilos valued at Rs.1,933. 57,400 kilos of birds' eggs yolk and albumen liquid worth Rs.8,932 were also produced.

Phosphatic guano was exported to the United Kingdom, Kenya, Mauritius, New Zealand, India, and Ceylon to the amount of 12,307 tons valued at Rs.215,987.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and intrusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands cover an area of about 13,597 acres. Land under forest stretching over 2,500 acres, one-fifth of which is under commercial timber, produced timber for the local market. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and banana, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas totalling over 500 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other live-stock comprise: horses, 25; asses, 25; cattle, 1,000; goats, 300. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows:—

Produce.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	lb.	Rs.
Meat	70,000	28,000
Hides (mostly from calves)	3,760	168
Pork meat	36,000	12,960
Turtle meat	45,000	14,850

Almost every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both. Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

Farm labourers under 15 years numbered ...	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over numbered...	6,141
Fishermen numbered	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except phosphate guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals or small companies.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1933 amounted to Rs.1,735,904, being a decrease of Rs.619,545 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.834,943, a decrease of Rs.173,168 as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.900,961, a decrease of Rs.446,377 compared with the year 1932.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1933 :—

	Rs.
Trade imports	818,838
Government imports	16,105
	834,943
Domestic exports and re-exports	903,981
Excess of exports and re-exports over imports ...	Rs. 69,038

The following table shows the balance of trade as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports during the quinquennial period 1929-1933 :—

	Exports.	*Imports.*	*Excess of Exports over Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1929	2,143,743	1,813,283	330,460
1930	2,048,967	1,631,077	417,890
1931	1,102,713	1,069,958	32,755
1932	1,347,338	1,008,111	339,227
1933	900,961	834,943	66,018

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

Countries.	*Exports.*	*Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	390,681	256,478
India	145,784	247,003
France	12,972	38,743
United States of America	181,466	6,224
Japan	—	63,039

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1932 and 1933 was as follows :—

	1932.	1933.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	245,104	267,015
India	495,194	136,300
Germany	—	—
Norway	45,432	—
France	—	—
Mauritius	3,200	5,000
Portuguese Possessions	875	—
	Rs.789,805	Rs.408,315

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same period was :—

	1932.	1933.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	22,787	6,965
United States of America	170,002	181,466
France	4,760	—
Germany	15,428	19,690
Kenya	360	—
	Rs.213,337	Rs.208,121

The quantity and value of guano exported for the same period was :—

	1932.		1933.	
	Quantity. *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.	*Quantity.* *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.
United Kingdom	1,553	31,060	4,250	76,250
Ceylon	—	—	450	9,000
Kenya	140	2,100	433	6,495
Mauritius ...	1,750	33,130	429	6,290
New Zealand ...	6,550	114,250	6,494	112,940
India	1,224	24,360	251	5,012
France	2,994	58,645	—	—
Germany ...	2	30	—	—
Total ...	14,213	263,575	12,307	215,987

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows :—

	United Kingdom. Rs.	*India.* Rs.	*Japan.* Rs.	*France.* Rs.	*Hong Kong.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1932 ...	19,295	33,260	72,651	—	—	125,206
1933 ...	14,568	28,209	40,446	211	495	83,929

The supply of cotton piece-goods in yards for the last five years was as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*
1929 ...	89,066	456,254	202,233	3,100
1930 ...	57,587	297,718	396,485	1,389
1931 ...	55,997	173,727	209,807	160
1932 ...	67,602	135,786	554,373	—
1933 ...	46,987	145,327	367,713	502

General Course of Prices.

The price of imported articles has continued at the level of the previous year while the price of exported produce has shown a considerable decline.

Copra, which was Rs. 165 the ton in January, fell to Rs. 120 in June and to Rs. 90 in December as compared with Rs. 175, Rs. 150, and Rs. 165 for the corresponding months of the year 1932.

Essential oil (cinnamon leaf) which was Rs. 3·85 the litre in January fell to Rs. 3 a litre in June but rose to Rs. 3·20 in December as compared with Rs. 4·50, Rs. 3, and Rs. 4 for the corresponding months of the previous year. Caret (tortoise-shell) was sold throughout the year at Rs. 16 a kilo. Essential oil distillation has increased during recent years, but is now very seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case with copra, the principal industry.

Approximately one-fourth of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs. 256,478). India supplied 2,225½ tons of rice (Rs. 153,384).

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally oral, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into consideration the cost of living, the average being Rs.6 per month—equal to 115 lb. of rice, the staple foodstuff. Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation; they earn Rs.4 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are good. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is:—men, Rs.4; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them, on their return to Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations and friends.

Cost of Living of Senior Officials.

(*Family of 2 adults and 2 children*).

The rent of houses is Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows: cooks Rs. 20 to Rs. 30, house boys Rs. 10 to Rs. 15, maid servants

Rs. 6 to Rs. 8, washerwomen Rs. 12 to Rs. 15, gardeners Rs. 12 to Rs. 15. The average cost of living per month is as follows :-

	Rs.
Rent	30
Food	100
Cook	20
Boy	10
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Lighting	15
Gardener	12
Fuel	8
School books and fees	15
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	20
Charities...	5
Taxes	15
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	15
Bedding and household utensils, etc.	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.333

No assistance towards the cost of passages for leave is granted by the Government.

Average Rate of Wages for Labour.

	Per annum.	*Per day of 8 hours.*	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.*
Agricultural :—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Overseers ...	500—720	—	—
Gardeners ...	144—192	—	1·00 per day.
Labourers ...	96—120	1·00	1·50 per night.
Domestic Service :—			
Predial	120—180	—	—
Domestic ...	120—300	—	—
Trade and Manufacture :—			
Carpenters ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths ...	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.8 to Rs.10 per month.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 26 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 20 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,195 pupils (980 boys and 1,215 girls); the average attendance in 1933 was 1,699 or 77·4 per cent.; the remaining schools are Church of England schools with 401 pupils (204 boys and 197 girls); the average attendance was 319 or 79·5 per cent. The Churches receive an annual Government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1933 was 199. St. Joseph's Convent School afforded education to 104 girls (and 10 small boys) up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

A scholarship of the annual value, free of income-tax, either of Rs.1,200 (approximately £90) tenable for 5 years or of Rs.1,500 (approximately £110) tenable for 4 years, together with a free passage to England and back on completion of studies, has been awarded when funds allowed to a scholar, under the age of 19, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London Matriculation Examination to the candidate who has passed in the first division and is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.21,358.

A benevolent society, known as "La Ligue de Secours," supported by private donations, also gives some assistance.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Dances and concerts are given by these.

The visit of a warship, twice or oftener a year, from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. It is hoped, when conditions improve, to complete the roads of the main island and of Praslin and La Digue. The smaller islands are owned or leased by individual planters who make their own arrangements in this regard. A grant has been made from the Colonial Development Fund of £7,500 for construction of roads, on the £1 for £1 basis, but the financial situation of the Colony at the moment has precluded the Government from taking full advantage of the grant.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing and auxiliary coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and large sailing and auxiliary ships ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves mainly as a bi-weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

Communication with the outer world is maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company's mail steamers which call at Port Victoria once every four weeks *en route* from Bombay to Mombasa and East African ports, and once every eight weeks on their return voyage from Mombasa to Bombay.

Steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line call at Mahe once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Penang, Singapore and Batavia.

Steamers of the Scandinavian East African Line call at Mahe approximately every two months on their way from Madagascar ports to Europe.

The above-mentioned are the regular callers, whilst others (steamers and sailing ships) call at Mahe occasionally for various ports.

A low-power wireless station is attached to the Postal Department. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it is mainly useful for communication with vessels calling at Port Victoria although, owing to its geographical position with respect to certain sea routes, an increasing number of vessels passing within range signal the station and frequently make use of it for traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.

The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.21,760 and the expenditure to Rs.18,872. The mail service during the year was good and mails were despatched on 47 occasions. The regular mail service is performed by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers which call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return

journey once every eight weeks. This service has been supplemented by the steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line which call once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Penang and Batavia. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

In 1933 the Post Office continued to despatch air mails to Europe, the near East, and those African territories on the London—Cape Town air route. The transit of mails to Europe by air via Karachi and Nairobi takes approximately 16 days and 18 days respectively, as compared with 21 days and 25 days approximately for mails by steamer alone via Bombay and Mombasa.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.

Cable and Wireless Limited, maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount of deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.181,858, an increase of Rs.19,405 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchases and sells Drafts and undertakes the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

Currency.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation :—silver 50-cent pieces and 25-cent pieces. Mauritius currency notes of Rs.50, Rs.10, and Rs.5, and silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5 and 2 cents, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes are being withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values :—Rs.50, Rs.10, Rs.5, Re.1, and one-half rupee. The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1933, amounted to Rs.299,117 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as :—

(1) *L'aune*, a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metres.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette*, employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tierçon*, a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt*, a measure of capacity for coconut oil = 7·57 litres.

(6) *The cord*, used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. This officer is also Chairman of the Victoria Town Board. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengering work are done by contract. The maintenance and repair of public buildings and roads constituted the principal activities of the Department during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

The Police Magistrate holds his Court in Victoria. He exercises a limited jurisdiction over minor offences. The maximum punishment he can inflict is a fine of Rs.250 and imprisonment for two months.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers, the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In certain circumstances appeals lie, and points of law may be referred, to the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

Police.

The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1933 of :— 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Sergeants, 10 Corporals, 72 Constables.

There are 12 Police stations in Mahe, 3 in Praslin, and 1 at La Digue.

Criminal Statistics for 1933 :—

	Total Numbers.			
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned.*
Supreme Court ...	189	145	60	79
Summary Courts ...	1,659	1,236	1,178	13

Twenty-six male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment, two to 1 month's hard labour, and in five cases fines were imposed. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prisons.

The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coconut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work.

The health of the prisoners was excellent.

In 1933, the daily average number in prison amounted to 37·75 men and 3 women.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no factory or workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Important Ordinances passed in 1933 :—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to authorize the imposition of a levy on the Emoluments of Public Officers and other Persons in receipt of salary from Public Funds.

No. 2.—An Ordinance to enable the Governor to appoint Commissioners to enquire into and report on matters referred to them by the Governor in Executive Council.

No. 3.—An Ordinance for regulating Pensions, Gratuities and other Allowances in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Civil Service in this Colony.

No. 7—An Ordinance to provide for a close season for the Collection of Birds' Eggs.

No. 18.—An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Police Court of Seychelles.

No. 19.—An Ordinance to regulate the powers conferred on Justices of the Peace in the Seychelles Islands.

No. 20.—An Ordinance to impose a Package Tax on goods imported into the Colony.

No. 21.—An Ordinance to amend the Customs Tariff (Consolidated) Ordinance 1932 (No. 10 of 1932).

No. 22.—An Ordinance to amend the Pensions Ordinance 1933 (No. 3 of 1933).

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs.592,043, being a decrease on the estimate of Rs.81,726. The expenditure amounted to Rs.654,500, showing an excess of Rs.1,848 on the estimate. In addition a sum of Rs.4,049 was expended on capital services from surplus funds.

The following statement shows the revenue for each of the last five years :—

	Rs.
1929	762,061
1930	754,173
1931	692,412
1932	701,164
1933	592,043

The following statement shows the expenditure for each of the last five years :—

	Ordinary. Rs.	*From Surplus Funds.* Rs.
1929	715,640	51,549
1930	709,345	128,722
1931	753,911	60,440
1932	681,446	4,185
1933	654,500	4,049

Customs brought in the greater part of the revenue, i.e., Rs.267,678.

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years :—

	Customs. Rs.	*Taxes.* Rs.	*Other Sources.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1929	387,228	203,842	170,991	762,061
1930	356,792	196,749	200,632	754,173
1931	227,909	174,069	290,434	692,412
1932	252,531	164,319	284,314	701,164
1933	267,678	150,686	173,679	592,043

Public Debt.

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 1st January, 1933, was Rs.388,201. On the 31st December, 1933, the amount had decreased to Rs.321,694.

Taxation.

The following are the main heads of taxation :—

Customs Tariff.—An Ordinance was passed in July 1932 granting a minimum preference of 10 per cent. in respect of goods of Empire origin, the *ad valorem* duty on which is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on food-stuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 cent of a rupee per degree of alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano, mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark.

Details of *Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc.*, are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A *Rural House Tax* of ½ per cent. is imposed with certain exceptions on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be fifty cents of a rupee whenever the value of such house is less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of ⅝ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

Income-Tax.—This was payable during 1933 at the following rates :—

When income is less than Rs.1,000 the rate shall be 1 per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of Rs.2.

When income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more :—

2	per cent. on the	1st	Rs.1,000	or part thereof.		
2½	,,	,,	2nd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
3	,,	,,	3rd	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
3½	,,	,,	4th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
4	,,	,,	5th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
4½	,,	,,	6th	Rs.1,000	,,	,,
5	,,	,,	excess over Rs.6,000 up to Rs.15,000.			
5½	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.15,000	,, Rs.20,000.
6	,,	,,	,,	,,	Rs.20,000.	

A revised scale of payments was introduced during 1934.

XVI.—GENERAL.

There has been a further decline in the price of copra, the main product of the Colony, and the price of guano, the export of which ranks second in order of value. Most planters' estates are mortgaged and, owing to falls in the prices of their products, the planters are experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations. Labourers' wages have been reduced but, on the whole, for those willing to work, employment has been available. Planters generally have allowed and encouraged their labourers to grow crops themselves, such as sweet potatoes, manioc, etc., which, together with rice (imported) and fish (which are very abundant) form their staple diet. The trade figures given above indicate the extent to which the value of the trade of the Colony has declined. A beneficial effect of the depression has been to impress on the planters the necessity for better and more intensive cultivation.

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par P. J. Guerard, Consul de Portugal. (1891).

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By John Horn.

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*England's Colonial Empire. Mauritius and its dependencies (1846).

By Charles Pridham, B.A., F.R.G.S.

out of print.

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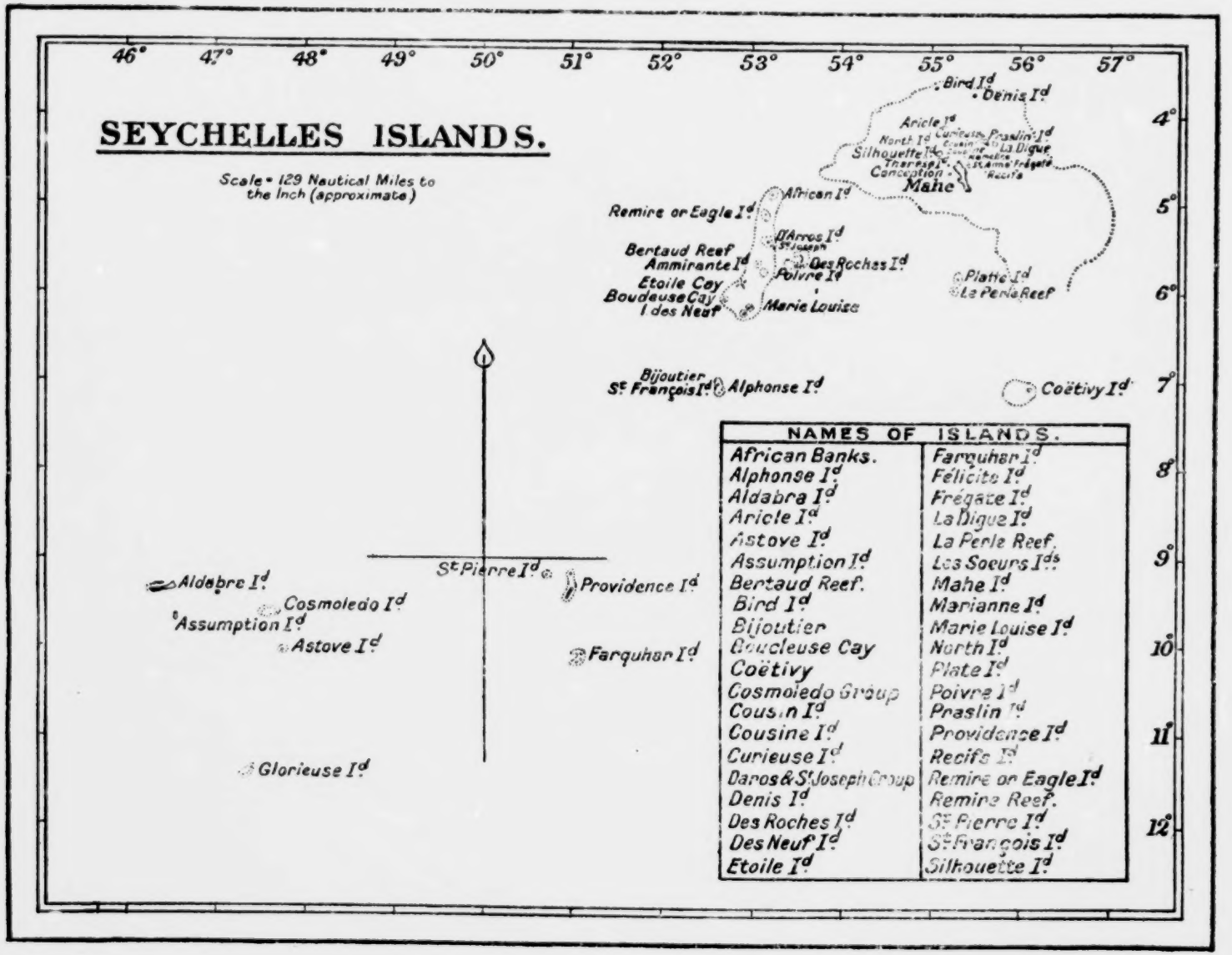

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No. 1747

Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of

SEYCHELLES, 1934

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES FOR 1934

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Seychelles comprises ninety-two islands, which are situated in the Indian Ocean between the 4th and 10th parallels of South Latitude and 46 and 57 lines of East Longitude. Their aggregate area is estimated at 156¼ square miles. The nearest point on the mainland is Mombasa, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles, and the islands of Zanzibar, Mauritius and Madagascar are respectively 970 miles, 934 miles and 600 miles away.

The main group of islands are of rugged granite formation and lie on the centre of a bank which is about 12,000 miles square. They were visited in 1934 by the John Murray Scientific Expedition to the Indian Ocean in the Egyptian survey vessel *Mabahiss*, under the direction of Colonel Seymour Sewell, I.M.S., Sc.D. In the report

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of this expedition the results of the soundings and observations taken point to the fact that the Seychelles Islands are peaks on the middle of a great submerged bank, which may have once been part of a southern continent, the continent of Gondwanaland (or Lemuria as it is sometimes called), which was supposed to connect India with Madagascar and South Africa and which went down after a tremendous volcanic upheaval when the lost continent began to subside 10,000 years ago.

The Seychelles Islands are peculiar in being one of the few places in the world which were entirely uninhabited when they were discovered, and also in their extraordinary lack of fauna. Apart from the ordinary domestic animal a few harmless snakes exist on the hills, rats and small lizards are common, and the flying fox is sometimes seen. The giant tortoise is found indigenous on Aldabra.

The largest and most important island is Mahe, which has an area of 55 square miles and a population of 23,000 out of an estimated 29,406 in the whole Colony. It is of extremely rugged formation with a very narrow littoral, from which rises steeply a central range from 2,000 to almost 3,000 feet. The highest point is Morne Seychellois at 2,993 feet. The scenery is very beautiful and the sea extremely colourful, owing to the coral reefs which surround the island.

Mahe has only one harbour, at Victoria, which is the principal town and the headquarters of Government. The harbour is about three miles wide and is protected on the east and south by a circle of islands which form the Mahe group. About one third of the total population live in Victoria, the rest being scattered in hamlets which lie along the sea shore or in estates on the hills.

Other islands of the main group and mostly of granite formation are :—

Praslin (9,700 acres) ; Silhouette (4,900 acres) ; La Digue (2,500 acres) ; Curieuse (900 acres) ; Frigate (700 acres) ; Felicite (689 acres) ; North Island (525 acres) ; Ste. Anne (500 acres) ; Denis (340 acres) ; Cerf (290 acres) and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

Outlying islands are all of coral formation, the farthest from the main group being Aldabra, which is 630 miles from Mahe. Aldabra is one of the most interesting of the Seychelles Islands. It has a lagoon over 50 square miles in area which teems with the hawksbill turtle and the edible turtle. The island is also the home of the giant tortoise. It is visited only by small schooners from Seychelles which collect coconuts and turtles and transport labour.

The main islands are now given up to the cultivation of coconuts, patchouli, vanilla, citriodora and palmarosa, while cinnamon grows wild on all the hills. On many of the outlying islands coconut palms flourish particularly well, while others have a rich treasure of guano. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map at the end of this Report.

Climate.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the south-east trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the year, the north-west monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86°F. but seldom falls below 74°F. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name the islands originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe after Mahe de Labourdonnais. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution, Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, M. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. M. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element of the population, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the high seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council, and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as President, three senior Departmental Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council and one Unofficial Member. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of Cable and Wireless, Limited, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

A census was taken on 26th April, 1931, showing a total population at that date of 27,444 (13,289 males and 14,155 females), with a distribution as follows:—

Mahe	21,712
Neighbouring islands	4,240
Outlying islands	1,492

The following are the more important vital statistics for the year, as compared with those for 1933:—

	1933	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1934	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	821	28·57	862	29·31
Deaths	346	12·04	317	10·78
Marriages	180	6·26	154	5·24
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year)	67	81·61*	42	49·88
Emigration	361	12·56	310	10·54
Immigration	382	13·29	440	14·95

* Rate per 1,000 births.

The census of 1931 was the fifth taken in the Colony. The following figures of population show the rates of increase per decennial period:—

1891.	*1901.*	*1911.*	*1921.*	*1931.*
16,440	19,237	22,691	24,523	27,444

These figures may be taken to indicate increases by birth, since neither immigration nor emigration is on a large scale and, roughly, the numbers balance each other.

IV.—HEALTH.

The health of the population generally is good. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never established itself, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox. There was no epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years, do any of the above diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygienic principles is important,

especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized, and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff, under the Senior Medical Officer, consists of a Resident Surgeon, who is also in charge of an X-ray and Electro-Therapeutic Department, three Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), and seven Probationary Nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year, 859 cases were treated in the Seychelles Government Hospital.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene.

Leprosy shows no improvement as compared with the previous year; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A leper settlement has been established on an island of 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Thirty-six lepers are isolated in the settlements and 51 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. Visits of relatives are allowed under appropriate conditions. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits and pigeons.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. At present there are 25 inmates.

Tuberculosis shows a slight improvement. A modern tuberculosis ward, situated in the hospital grounds, was completed during the year 1931 for the isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of the islands are planted with coconuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,500 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known locally as "Decoque", is met with. The Government hopes when conditions permit to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

V.—HOUSING.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coconut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1*s.* 6*d.*) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more thrifty among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coconut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The chief exports of the Colony are the products of the coconut. The net export values of these products for 1934 were as follows :—

	Rs.
Coconut oil (12,302 kilos) ...	1,615
Copra (5,565¼ tons)	508,152

Cinnamon, a jungle tree, is exploited for its essential oil, which, in spite of the fluctuation of price, remains the export product second in importance, with an output of 59,619 kilos, exported mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.194,581. Cinnamon bark exports amounted to 7½ tons, of a value of Rs. 396. 1,919 kilos of patchouli oil, valued at Rs.10,046, were also exported. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 482 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.2,509. The Colony is well adapted for the development of fisheries. Two million pounds of fresh fish, representing Rs.800,000, are captured per annum for local consumption. 751 kilos of turtle strips worth Rs.693, 3,878 kilos of calipee worth Rs.7,545, and 109 kilos of green turtle-shell worth Rs.54, were exported in 1934. The other fishery products are tortoise-shell, 1,104 kilos valued at Rs.18,231, and tripangs, 3,837 kilos valued at Rs. 2,276. 49,900 kilos of birds' eggs yolk liquid worth Rs.8,685 were also produced.

Phosphatic guano was exported to the United Kingdom, Kenya, New Zealand, and Ceylon to the amount of 12,062 tons valued at Rs.207,240.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and intrusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands cover an area of about 13,597 acres. Land under forest stretching over 2,500 acres, one-fifth of which is under commercial timber, produced timber for the local market. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and banana, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas totalling over 500 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other livestock comprise: horses, 25; asses, 25; cattle, 1,000; goats, 300. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows:—

Produce.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	lb.	Rs.
Meat	70,000	28,000
Hides (mostly from calves)	3,760	168
Pork meat	36,000	12,960
Turtle meat	45,000	14,850

Almost every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both. Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

Farm labourers under 15 years numbered ...	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over numbered...	6,141
Fishermen numbered	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except phosphate guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals or small companies.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1934 amounted to Rs.1,804,057, being an increase of Rs.68,153 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.823,953, a decrease of Rs.10,990, as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.980,104, an increase of Rs.79,143 compared with the year 1933.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1934 :—

	Rs.
Trade imports	794,609
Government imports	29,344
	823,953
Domestic exports and re-exports	980,104
Excess of exports and re-exports over imports ...	Rs.156,151

The following table shows the balance of trade as represented by the excess in the value of exports over that of imports during the quinquennial period 1930–1934 :—

	Exports.	*Imports.*	*Excess of Exports over Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1930	2,048,967	1,631,077	417,890
1931	1,102,713	1,069,958	32,755
1932	1,347,338	1,008,111	339,227
1933	900,961	834,943	66,018
1934	980,104	823,953	156,151

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

Countries.	*Exports.*	*Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	576,255	295,301
India	21,565	235,022
France	9,323	44,102
United States of America	170,981	2,056
Japan	—	54,746

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1933 and 1934 was as follows :—

	1933.	1934.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	267,015	485,610
India	136,300	15,300
Mauritius	5,000	7,242
	Rs.408,315	Rs.508,152

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same period was :—

	1933.	1934.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	6,965	28,027
United States of America	181,466	170,981
Holland	—	6,783
Germany	19,690	—
	Rs.208,121	Rs.205,791

The quantity and value of guano exported for the same period was :—

	1933.		1934.	
	Quantity. *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.	*Quantity.* *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.
United Kingdom	4,250	76,250	3,300	33,000
Ceylon	450	9,000	500	10,000
Kenya	433	6,495	112	1,240
Mauritius ...	429	6,290	—	—
New Zealand ...	6,494	112,940	8,150	163,000
India	251	5,012	—	—
Total ...	12,307	215,987	12,062	207,240

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*	*Hong Kong.*	*Total.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1933 ...	14,568	28,209	40,446	211	495	83,929
1934 ...	13,767	25,578	41,085	—	—	80,430

The supply of cotton piece-goods in yards for the last five years was as follows :—

	United Kingdom.	*India.*	*Japan.*	*France.*
1930 ...	57,587	297,718	396,485	1,389
1931 ...	55,997	173,727	209,807	160
1932 ...	67,602	135,786	554,373	—
1933 ...	46,987	145,327	367,713	502
1934 ...	49,602	190,750	386,655	—

General Course of Prices.

The price of imported articles has continued at the level of the previous year while the price of exported produce has shown a considerable decline.

Copra was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.75 to Rs.90 per ton as compared with Rs.175 per ton in January, Rs.120 in June, and Rs.90 in December of the year 1933.

The price of essential oil (cinnamon leaf) fluctuated from Rs.3 per litre to Rs.3·40 per litre during the year. Caret (tortoise-shell) was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.8 to Rs.16 a kilo. Essential oil distillation has increased during recent years, but is now very seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case with copra, the principal industry.

Approximately one-third of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs.295,301). India supplied 2,113½ tons of rice (Rs.145,358).

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally oral, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into consideration the cost of living, the average being Rs.6 per month—equal to 85 lb. of rice, the staple foodstuff. Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation; they earn Rs.4 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are good. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is:—men, Rs.4; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them, on their return to Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations and friends.

Cost of Living of Senior Officials.

(*Family of 2 adults and 2 children*).

The rent of houses is Rs.25 to Rs.50 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows: cooks Rs.20 to Rs.30, house boys Rs.7 to Rs.15, maid servants

Rs.7 to Rs.10, washerwomen Rs.10 to Rs.15, gardeners Rs.10 to Rs.15. The average cost of living per month is as follows :—

	Rs.
Rent	35
Food	100
Cook	25
Boy	10
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Lighting	15
Gardener	12
Fuel	8
School books and fees	15
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	20
Charities...	5
Taxes	15
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	15
Bedding and household utensils, etc.	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.343

No assistance towards the cost of passages for leave is granted by the Government.

Average Rate of Wages for Labour.

	Per annum.	*Per day of 8 hours.*	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.*
Agricultural :—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Overseers ...	500—720	—	—
Gardeners ...	144—192	—	1·00 per day.
Labourers ...	96—120	1·00	1·50 per night.
Domestic Service :—			
Predial	120—180	—	—
Domestic ...	120—300	—	—
Trade and Manufacture :—			
Carpenters ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths ...	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.8 to Rs.10 per month.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 25 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 18 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,277 pupils (1,020 boys and 1,257 girls); the average attendance in 1934 was 1,796·8 or 80·72 per cent.; the remaining schools are Church of England schools with 420 pupils (222 boys and 198 girls); the average attendance was 331·5 or 78·92 per cent. The Churches receive an annual Government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1934 was 189. St. Joseph's Convent School afforded education to 96 girls (and 13 small boys) up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

A scholarship of the annual value, free of income-tax, either of Rs.1,200 (approximately £90) tenable for 5 years or of Rs.1,500 (approximately £110) tenable for 4 years, together with a free passage to England and back on completion of studies, has been awarded when funds allowed to a scholar, under the age of 19, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London Matriculation Examination to the candidate who has passed in the first division and is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.19,881.

A benevolent society, known as "La Ligue de Secours," supported by private donations, also gives some assistance.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Dances and concerts are given by these.

The visit of a warship, twice or oftener a year, from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. It is hoped, when conditions improve, to complete the roads of the main island and of Praslin and La Digue. The smaller islands are owned or leased by individual planters who make their own arrangements in this regard. A grant has been made from the Colonial Development Fund of £7,500 for construction of roads, on the £1 for £1 basis, but the financial situation of the Colony at the moment has precluded the Government from taking full advantage of the grant.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing and auxiliary coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and large sailing and auxiliary ships ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves mainly as a bi-weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

Communication with the outer world is maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company's mail steamers which call at Port Victoria once every four weeks *en route* from Bombay to Mombasa and East African ports, and once every eight weeks on their return voyage from Mombasa to Bombay.

Steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line call at Mahe once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Penang, Singapore and Batavia.

Steamers of the Scandinavian East African Line call at Mahe approximately every two months on their way from Madagascar ports to Europe.

The above-mentioned are the regular callers, whilst others (steamers and sailing ships) call at Mahe occasionally for various ports.

A low-power wireless station which was attached to the Postal Department was transferred to Cable and Wireless, Limited, in December, 1934. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it is mainly useful for communication with vessels calling at Port Victoria although, owing to its geographical position with respect to certain sea routes, an increasing number of vessels passing within range signal the station and frequently make use of it for traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.

The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.17,737 and the expenditure to Rs.18,286. The mail service during the year was fairly good and mails were despatched on 33 occasions. The regular mail service is performed by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers which call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return

journey once every eight weeks. This service has been supplemented by the steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line which call once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Penang and Batavia. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

In 1934 the Post Office continued to despatch air mails to Europe, the near East, and those African territories on the London—Cape Town air route. The transit of mails to Europe by air via Karachi and Nairobi takes approximately 16 days and 18 days respectively, as compared with 21 days and 25 days approximately for mails by steamer alone via Bombay and Mombasa.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount of deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.214,930, an increase of Rs.33,072 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchases and sells Drafts and undertakes the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

Currency.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation :—silver 50-cent pieces and 25-cent pieces. Mauritius currency notes of Rs.50, Rs.10, and Rs.5, and silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5 and 2 cents, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes are being withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values :—Rs.50, Rs.10, Rs.5, Re.1, and one-half rupee.* The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1934, amounted to Rs.305,117 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

* Mauritius notes ceased to be legal tender on the 15th December, 1934.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as :—

(1) *L'aune*, a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metres.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette*, employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tierçon*, a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt*, a measure of capacity for coconut oil = 7·57 litres.

(6) *The cord*, used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengery work are done by contract. The maintenance and repair of public buildings and roads constituted the principal activities of the Department during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

The Police Magistrate holds his Court in Victoria. He exercises a limited jurisdiction over minor offences. The maximum punishment he can inflict is a fine of Rs.250 and imprisonment for two months.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers, the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In certain circumstances appeals lie, and points of law may be referred, to the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

Police.

The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1934 of :— 1 Inspector, 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Sergeants, 10 Corporals, 66 Constables.

There were 12 Police stations in Mahe, 3 in Praslin, and 1 at La Digue. Of these 5 in Mahe and 1 in Praslin were closed down during the year.

Criminal Statistics for 1934 :—

	Total Numbers.			
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned*
Supreme Court ...	215	139	67	71
Summary Courts ...	1,346	956	858	60

Two male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment, three to imprisonment, and in six cases were fined or bound over. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prisons.

The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coconut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work.

The health of the prisoners was excellent.

In 1934, the daily average number in prison amounted to 50·2 men and 4·75 women.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no factory or workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Important Ordinances passed in 1934 :—

No. 3.—An Ordinance to constitute the Clergy of the Roman Catholic Mission in Seychelles a body corporate.

No. 6.—An Ordinance to control the export of Patchouli Oil.

No. 8.—An Ordinance to deal with Juvenile Offenders and to empower the Courts to order Whipping as a punishment in certain cases.

No. 13.—An Ordinance to effect the Eradication of Ginger Grass and of Palmarosa Plants of an inferior or hybrid quality in the Colony.

No. 18.—An Ordinance to regulate the Importation of certain Textile Goods.

No. 19.—An Ordinance to amend the law relating to certain taxes on properties.

No. 20.—An Ordinance to regulate the practice of medicine and dentistry.

No. 23.—An Ordinance to amend the Property Tax Ordinance, 1923. (No. 2 of 1923).

No. 24.—An Ordinance to amend the Income Tax Ordinance, 1923. (No. 7 of 1923).

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs.795,766, being an increase on the estimate of Rs.158,096. The expenditure amounted to Rs.679,255, showing an excess of Rs.16,116 on the estimate.

The following statement shows the revenue for each of the last five years :—

	Rs.
1930	754,173
1931	692,412
1932	701,164
1933	592,043
1934	795,766

The revenue figures include a sum of Rs.166,182 transferred from the Guano Royalty Fund to general revenue in the course of the year. But for this transfer expenditure would have exceeded revenue by Rs.49,671.

The following statement shows the expenditure for each of the last five years :—

	Ordinary. Rs.	*From Surplus Funds.* Rs.
1930	709,345	128,722
1931	753,911	60,440
1932	681,446	4,185
1933	654,500	4,049
1934	679,255	—

Customs brought in the greater part of the revenue, i.e., Rs.274,037.

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years :—

	Customs. Rs.	*Taxes.* Rs.	*Other Sources.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1930	356,792	196,749	200,632	754,173
1931	227,909	174,069	290,434	692,412
1932	252,571	164,319	284,314	701,164
1933	267,678	150,686	173,679	592,043
1934	274,037	150,498	371,231	795,766

Public Debt.

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 1st January, 1934, was Rs.321,694. On the 31st December, 1934, the amount had increased to Rs.438,205.

Taxation.

The following are the main heads of taxation :—

Customs Tariff.—An Ordinance was passed in July 1932 granting a minimum preference of 10 per cent. in respect of goods of Empire origin, the *ad valorem* duty on which is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on food-stuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 cent of a rupee per degree of alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano, mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark.

Details of *Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc.*, are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A *Rural House Tax* of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. is imposed with certain exceptions on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be one rupee whenever the value of such house is less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

Income-Tax.—This was payable during 1934 at the following rates:—

When income is less than Rs.1,000 the rate shall be 1 per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of Rs.2.

When income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more:—

2	per cent. on the 1st	Rs.1,000.				
3	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.1,000	up to	Rs.3,000.
5	,,	,,	,,	Rs.3,000	,,	Rs.8,000.
7½	,,	,,	,,	Rs.8,000	,,	Rs.15,000.
10	,,	,,	,,	Rs.15,000	,,	Rs.25,000.
15	,,	,,	,,	Rs.25,000.		

Company income tax was payable as follows:—

5	per cent. on the 1st	Rs.5,000				
10	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.5,000	up to	Rs.10,000.
15	,,	,,	,,	Rs.10,000.		

XVI.—GENERAL.

There has been a further decline in the price of copra, the main product of the Colony, and the price of guano, the export of which ranks second in order of value. Most planters' estates are mortgaged and, owing to falls in the prices of their products, the planters are experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations. Labourers' wages have been reduced but, on the whole, for those willing to work, employment has been available. Planters generally have allowed and encouraged their labourers to grow crops themselves, such as sweet potatoes, manioc, etc., which, together with rice (imported) and fish (which are very abundant) form their staple diet. The trade figures given above indicate the extent to which the value of the trade of the Colony has declined. A beneficial effect of the depression has been to impress on the planters the necessity for better and more intensive cultivation.

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* Copies may be seen in the Library of the Colonial Office.

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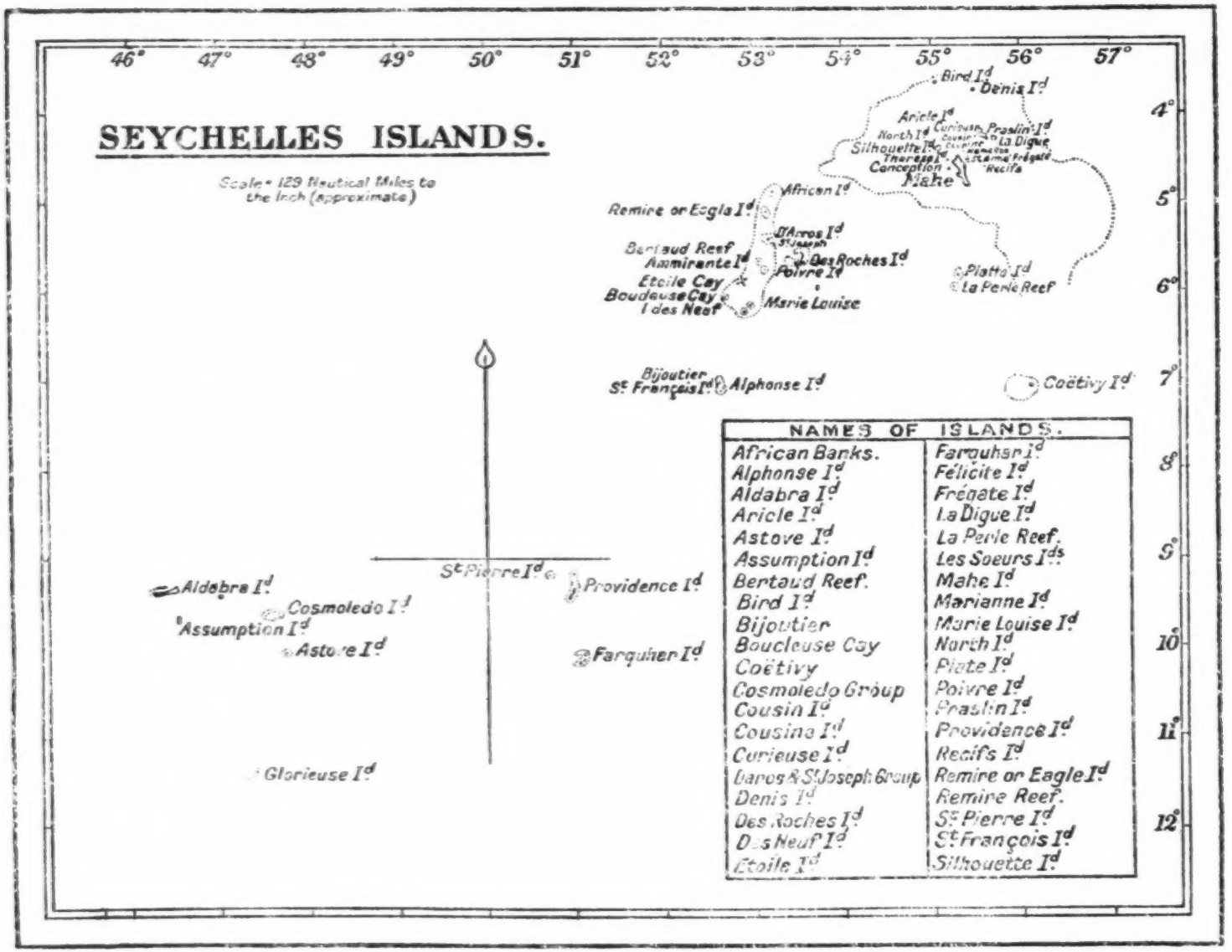

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Financial Situation. Report of Commission, December, 1931. [Cmd. 4034.] 4*s.* 6*d.* (4*s.* 10*d.*).

WEST INDIES.

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES FOR 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Seychelles comprises ninety-two islands, which are situated in the Indian Ocean between the 4th and 10th parallels of South Latitude and 46 and 57 lines of East Longitude. Their aggregate area is estimated at 156¼ square miles. The nearest point on the mainland is Mombasa, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles, and the islands of Zanzibar, Mauritius and Madagascar are respectively 970 miles, 934 miles and 600 miles away.

The main group of islands are of rugged granite formation and lie on the centre of a bank which is about 12,000 miles square. They were visited in 1934 by the John Murray Scientific Expedition to the Indian Ocean in the Egyptian survey vessel *Mabahiss*, under the direction of Colonel Seymour Sewell, I.M.S., Sc.D. In the report

of this expedition the results of the soundings and observations taken point to the fact that the Seychelles Islands are peaks on the middle of a great submerged bank, which may have once been part of a southern continent, the continent of Gondwanaland (or Lemuria as it is sometimes called), which was supposed to connect India with Madagascar and South Africa and which went down after a tremendous volcanic upheaval when the lost continent began to subside 10,000 years ago.

The Seychelles Islands are peculiar in being one of the few places in the world which were entirely uninhabited when they were discovered, and also in their extraordinary lack of fauna. Apart from the ordinary domestic animal a few harmless snakes exist on the hills, rats and small lizards are common, and the flying fox is sometimes seen. The giant tortoise is found indigenous on Aldabra.

The largest and most important island is Mahe, which has an area of 55 square miles and a population of 25,367 out of an estimated 29,803 in the whole Colony. It is of extremely rugged formation with a very narrow littoral, from which rises steeply a central range from 2,000 to almost 3,000 feet. The highest point is Morne Seychellois at 2,993 feet. The scenery is very beautiful and the sea extremely colourful, owing to the coral reefs which surround the island.

Mahe has only one harbour, at Victoria, which is the principal town and the headquarters of Government. The harbour is about three miles wide and is protected on the east and south by a circle of islands which form the Mahe group. About one third of the total population live in Victoria, the rest being scattered in hamlets which lie along the sea shore or in estates on the hills.

Other islands of the main group and mostly of granite formation are :—

Praslin (9,700 acres) ; Silhouette (4,900 acres) ; La Digue (2,500 acres) ; Curieuse (900 acres) ; Frigate (700 acres) ; Felicite (689 acres) ; North Island (525 acres) ; Ste. Anne (500 acres) ; Denis (340 acres) ; Cerf (290 acres) and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

Outlying islands are all of coral formation, the farthest from the main group being Aldabra, which is 630 miles from Mahe. Aldabra is one of the most interesting of the Seychelles Islands. It has a lagoon over 50 square miles in area which teems with the hawksbill turtle and the edible turtle. The island is also the home of the giant tortoise. It is visited only by small schooners from Seychelles which collect coconuts and turtles and transport labour.

The main islands are now given up to the cultivation of coconuts, patchouli, vanilla, citriodora and palmarosa, while cinnamon grows wild on all the hills. On many of the outlying islands coconut palms flourish particularly well, while others have a rich treasure of guano. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map at the end of this Report.

Climate.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the south-east trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the year, the north-west monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86°F. but seldom falls below 74°F. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name the islands originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe after Mahe de Labourdonnais. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Vicomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution, Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, M. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. M. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element of the population, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the high seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council, and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as President, three senior Departmental Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council and one Unofficial Member. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of Cable and Wireless, Limited, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

A census was taken on 26th April, 1931, showing a total population at that date of 27,444 (13,289 males and 14,155 females), with a distribution as follows:—

Mahe	21,712
Neighbouring islands	4,240
Outlying islands	1,492

The following are the more important vital statistics for the year, as compared with those for 1934:—

	1934	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1935	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	862	29·31	819	27·48
Deaths	317	10·78	420	14·09
Marriages	154	5·24	188	6·31
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year)	42	49·88*	89	108·67
Emigration	310	10·54	383	12·85
Immigration	440	14·95	381	12·78

* Rate per 1,000 births.

The census of 1931 was the fifth taken in the Colony. The following figures of population show the rates of increase per decennial period:—

1891.	*1901.*	*1911.*	*1921.*	*1931.*
16,440	19,237	22,691	24,523	27,444

These figures may be taken to indicate increases by birth, since neither immigration nor emigration is on a large scale and, roughly, the numbers balance each other.

IV.—HEALTH.

The health of the population generally is good. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never established itself, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox. There was no epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years, do any of the above diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygienic principles is important,

especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized, and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer who acts as Resident Surgeon and is also in charge of an X-ray and Electro-Therapeutic Department, three Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), and seven Probationary Nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year, 976 cases were treated in the Seychelles Government Hospital.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene.

Leprosy shows no improvement as compared with the previous year; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A leper settlement has been established on an island of 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Forty-two lepers are isolated in the settlements and 51 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. Visits of relatives are allowed under appropriate conditions. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits and pigeons.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. At present there are 28 inmates.

Tuberculosis shows a slight improvement. A modern tuberculosis ward, situated in the hospital grounds, was completed during the year 1931 for the isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of the islands are planted with coconuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,500 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known locally as "Decoque", is met with. The Government hopes when conditions permit to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

V.—HOUSING.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coconut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1*s.* 6*d.*) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more thrifty among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coconut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The chief exports of the Colony are the products of the coconut. The net export values of these products for 1935 were as follows :—

			Rs.
Coconuts (47,000)	...	...	1,028
Copra (4,311$\frac{1}{4}$ tons)	...	...	584,614

Cinnamon, a jungle tree, is exploited for its essential oil, which, in spite of the fluctuation of price, remains the export product second in importance, with an output of 57,130 kilos, exported mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.189,929. Cinnamon bark exports amounted to 1$\frac{3}{4}$ tons, of a value of Rs.138. 4,679 kilos of patchouli oil, valued at Rs.28,338, were also exported. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 118 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.780. The Colony is well adapted for the development of fisheries. Two million pounds of fresh fish, representing Rs.800,000, are captured per annum for local consumption. 5,538 kilos of turtle strips worth Rs.3,211, 4,303 kilos of calipee worth Rs.8,606, and 168 kilos of green turtle-shell worth Rs.84, were exported in 1935. The other fishery products are tortoise-shell, 742 kilos valued at Rs. 9,432, and tripangs, 1,547 kilos valued at Rs.1,547. 49,350 kilos of birds' eggs yolk liquid worth Rs.7,004 were also produced.

Phosphatic guano was exported to Kenya, New Zealand, Ceylon, Mauritius, South Africa and Belgium to the amount of 10,082 tons valued at Rs.150,740.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and intrusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands cover an area of about 13,597 acres. Land under forest stretching over 2,500 acres, one-fifth of which is under commercial timber, produced timber for the local market. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and banana, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas totalling over 500 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other livestock comprise: horses, 15; asses, 25; cattle, 1,000; goats, 400. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows:—

Produce.	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
	lb.	Rs.
Meat	70,000	28,000
Hides (mostly from calves)	3,760	168
Pork meat	36,000	12,960
Turtle meat	45,000	14,850

Almost every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both. Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

Farm labourers under 15 years numbered ...	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over numbered...	6,141
Fishermen numbered	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except phosphate guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals or small companies.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1935 amounted to Rs.1,887,528, being an increase of Rs.83,471 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.891,359, an increase of Rs.67,496, as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.996,169, an increase of Rs.16,065 compared with the year 1934.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1935 :—

	Rs.
Trade imports	806,970
Government imports	16,933
	891,359
Domestic exports	996,169
Excess of exports over imports	Rs.104,810

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table :—

Countries.	*Exports.*	*Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	567,472	302,449
India	85,300	311,406
France	16,773	35,942
United States of America	4,154,146	5,878
Japan	—	53,652
Australia	—	33,009

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1934 and 1935 was as follows :—

	1934.	1935.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	485,610	486,900
India	15,300	82,141
Mauritius	7,242	15,573
	Rs.508,152	Rs.584,614

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same period was :—

	1934.	1935.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	28,027	56,767
United States of America	170,981	152,796
Holland	6,783	—
France	—	9,049
	Rs.205,791	Rs.218,612

The quantity and value of guano exported for the same period was :—

	1934.		1935.	
	Quantity. *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.	*Quantity.* *Tons.*	*Value.* Rs.
United Kingdom	3,300	33,000	—	—
Ceylon	500	10,000	500	10,000
Kenya	112	1,240	76	860
Mauritius ...	—	—	1,410	18,440
New Zealand ...	8,150	163,000	6,000	90,000
South Africa ...	—	—	346	5,190
Belgium	—	—	1,750	26,250
Total ...	12,062	207,240	10,082	150,740

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows :—

	United Kingdom. Rs.	*India.* Rs.	*Japan.* Rs.	*Russia.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1934	13,767	25,578	41,085	—	80,430
1935	32,998	42,692	20,054	132	95,876

General Course of Prices.

The price of imported articles has continued at the level of the previous year while the price of exported produce has shown an appreciable rise.

Copra was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.105 to Rs.180 per ton as compared with Rs.75 to Rs.90 per ton during the year 1934.

The price of essential oil (cinnamon leaf) fluctuated from Rs.3·20 per litre to Rs.3·40 per litre during the year. Caret (tortoise-shell) was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.8 to Rs.12 a kilo. Essential oil distillation has increased during recent years, but is now very seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case with copra, the principal industry.

Approximately one-third of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs.302,449). India supplied 2,319 tons of rice (Rs.196,908).

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally oral, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into

consideration the cost of living, the average being Rs.8 per month—equal to 115 lbs. of rice, the staple foodstuff. Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation; they earn Rs.4 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are good. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is:—men, Rs.4; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them, on their return to Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations and friends.

Cost of Living of Senior Officials.

(*Family of 2 adults and 2 children*).

The rent of houses is Rs.25 to Rs.50 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows: cooks Rs.20 to Rs.30, house boys Rs.7 to Rs.15, maid servants Rs.7 to Rs.10, washerwomen Rs.10 to Rs.15, gardeners Rs.10 to Rs.15. The average cost of living per month is as follows:—

	Rs.
Rent	35
Food	100
Cook	25
Boy	10
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Lighting	15
Gardener	12
Fuel	8
School books and fees	15
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	20
Charities...	5
Taxes	15
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	15
Bedding and household utensils, etc.	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.343

Assistance towards the cost of passages for leave is now granted by the Government.

Average Rate of Wages for Labour.

	Per annum.	*Per day of 8 hours.*	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.*
Agricultural :—	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Managers ...	500—720	—	—
Overseers ...	180—360	—	—
Gardeners ...	120—180	—	1·00 per day.
Labourers ...	72—120	·40	1·50 per night.
Domestic Service :—			
Predial	120—180	—	—
Domestic ...	120—300	—	—
Trade and Manufacture :—			
Carpenters ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths ...	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.8 to Rs.10 per month.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 26 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 19 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,405 pupils (1,096 boys and 1,309 girls); the average attendance in 1935 was 1,851·23 or 76·97 per cent.; the remaining schools are Church of England schools with 467 pupils (252 boys and 215 girls); the average attendance was 367·07 or 78·6 per cent. The Churches receive an annual Government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1935 was 189. St. Joseph's Convent School afforded education to 96 girls (and 13 small boys) up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

A scholarship of the annual value, free of income-tax, either of Rs.1,200 (approximately £90) tenable for 5 years or of Rs.1,500 (approximately £110) tenable for 4 years, together with a free

passage to England and back on completion of studies, has been awarded when funds allowed to a scholar, under the age of 19, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London Matriculation Examination to the candidate who has passed in the first division and is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.16,695.

A benevolent society, known as "La Ligue de Secours," supported by private donations, also gives some assistance.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Dances and concerts are given by these.

The visit of a warship, twice or oftener a year, from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. A programme to complete the roads of the main island was commenced during the year from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund of £30,000, half of which is a free grant and half a loan free of interest for the present.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing and auxiliary coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and large sailing and auxiliary ships ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves mainly as a bi-weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

Communication with the outer world is maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company's mail steamers which call at Port Victoria once every four weeks *en route* from Bombay to Mombasa and East African ports, and once every eight weeks on their return voyage from Mombasa to Bombay.

Steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line call at Mahe once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Singapore, Hong Kong and Batavia.

Steamers of the Scandinavian East African Line call at Mahe approximately every two months on their way from Madagascar ports to Europe.

The above-mentioned are the regular callers, whilst others (steamers and sailing ships) call at Mahe occasionally for various ports.

A low-power wireless station which was attached to the Postal Department was transferred to Cable and Wireless, Limited, in December, 1934. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it is mainly useful for communication with vessels calling at Port Victoria although, owing to its geographical position with respect to certain sea routes, an increasing number of vessels passing within range signal the station and frequently make use of it for traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.

The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.78,432 (Rs.61,102 was derived from the sale of Silver Jubilee stamps alone), and the expenditure to Rs.23,247. The mail service during the year was fairly good and mails were despatched on 32 occasions. The regular mail service is performed by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers which call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. This service has been supplemented by the steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line which call once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Singapore, Hong Kong and Batavia. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

In 1935 the Post Office continued to despatch air mails to Europe, the near East, and those African territories on the London—Cape Town air route. The transit of mails to Europe by air via Karachi and Nairobi takes approximately 12 days and 15 days respectively, as compared with 21 days and 25 days approximately for mails by steamer alone via Bombay and Mombasa.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount of deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.216,074, an increase of Rs.1,144 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchases and sells Drafts and undertakes the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

Currency.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation :— silver 50-cent. pieces and 25-cent. pieces. Mauritius silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5 and 2 cents, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes have been withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values :—Rs.50, Rs.10, Rs.5, Re.1, and one-half rupee. The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1935, amounted to Rs.335,117 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as :—

(1) *L'aune*, a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metres.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare, for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette*, employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tierçon*, a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt*, a measure of capacity for coconut oil = 7·57 litres.

(6) *The cord*, used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengery work are done by contract. The maintenance and repair of public buildings and roads constituted the principal activities of the Department during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

The Police Magistrate holds his Court in Victoria. He exercises a limited jurisdiction over minor offences. The maximum punishment he can inflict is a fine of Rs.250 and imprisonment for two months.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers, the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In certain circumstances appeals lie, and points of law may be referred, to the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

Police.

The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1935 of :— One Superintendent, three Sergeants, nine Corporals, sixty-eight Constables.

There were seven Police stations in Mahe, two in Praslin, and one at La Digue.

Criminal Statistics for 1935 :—

	Total Numbers.			
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned.*
Supreme Court ...	174	124	65	55
Summary Courts ...	1,132	743	650	81

Four male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment, and in four cases were fined or bound over. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prisons.

The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coconut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work.

The health of the prisoners was excellent.

In 1935, the daily average number in prison amounted to 54 men and 5·75 women.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no factory or workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Important Ordinances passed in 1935 :—

No. 3.—An Ordinance to regulate the Deportation of undesirable British subjects and for similar purposes.

No. 9.—An Ordinance to amend the Agricultural Loan (crop privilege) Ordinance, 1923. (No. 9 of 1923).

No. 10.—An Ordinance to amend the Loan to Planters Ordinances, 1904 to 1927, so as to enable a reduction to be made in the rate of interest payable on certain loans made under the said Ordinances.

No. 16.—An Ordinance to amend the Prison Ordinance, 1892. (No. 1 of 1892).

No. 19.—An Ordinance to control the export and marketing of Essential oils.

No. 20.—An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation of the printing and publication of Newspapers within the Colony.

No. 23.—An Ordinance to provide for the control of the manufacture and consumption of the liquor called "Toddy."

No. 25.—An Ordinance to amend The Seychelles Penal Code as re-enacted by Ordinance No. 4 of 1923.

No. 26.—An Ordinance to regulate the Importation, Exportation, Manufacture, sale and use of opium and other dangerous drugs.

No. 28.—An Ordinance to prohibit the passing of the sentence of Death upon Expectant Mothers and for other purposes connected therewith.

No. 29.—An Ordinance to amend the cultivation of sugar cane and the manufacture and sale of Bacca Ordinance, 1928. (No. 9 of 1928).

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs.728,173, being an increase on the estimate of Rs.145,245. The expenditure amounted to Rs.675,058, showing an excess of Rs.116,244 on the estimate.

The following statement shows the revenue for each of the last five years :—

	Rs.
1931	692,412
1932	701,164
1933	592,043
1934	795,766
1935	728,173*

The following statement shows the expenditure for each of the last five years :—

	Ordinary. Rs.	*From Surplus Funds.* Rs.
1931	753,911	60,440
1932	681,446	4,185
1933	654,500	4,049
1934	679,255	—
1935	675,058	(Rs.36,046 from C.D.F.)

Customs brought in the greater part of the revenue, i.e., Rs.289,080.

* (Includes a sum of Rs. 166,182 transferred from the Guano Royalty Fund.)

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years :—

	Customs.	*Taxes.*	*Other Sources.*	*Total.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1931	227,909	174,069	290,434	692,412
1932	252,531	164,319	284,314	701,164
1933	267,678	150,686	173,679	592,043
1934	274,037	150,498	371,231	795,766
1935	289,080	149,853	289,235	728,173

Public Debt.

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 1st January, 1935, was Rs.438,205. On the 31st December, 1935, the amount had increased to Rs.491,230.

Taxation.

The following are the main heads of taxation :—

Customs Tariff.—An Ordinance was passed in July 1932 granting a minimum preference of 10 per cent. in respect of goods of Empire origin, the *ad valorem* duty on which is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on food-stuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 cent of a rupee per degree of alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano, mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers ; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil ; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark.

Details of *Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc.*, are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A *Rural House Tax* of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. is imposed with certain exceptions on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be one rupee whenever the value of such house is less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

Income-Tax.—This was payable during 1935 at the following rates :—

When income is less than Rs.1,000 the rate shall be 1 per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of Rs.2.

When income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more :—

2	per cent. on the	1st	Rs.1,000.	
3	,,	,,	excess over Rs.1,000 up to	Rs.3,000.
5	,,	,,	,, Rs.3,000 ,,	Rs.8,000.
7½	,,	,,	,, Rs.8,000 ,,	Rs.15,000.
10	,,	,,	,, Rs.15,000 ,,	Rs.25,000.
15	,,	,,	,, Rs.25,000.	

Company income tax was payable as follows :—

5	per cent. on the	1st	Rs.5,000	
10	,,	,,	excess over Rs.5,000 up to	Rs.10,000.
15	,,	,,	,, ,, Rs.10,000.	

XVI.—GENERAL.

There has been an appreciable rise in the price of copra, the main product of the Colony, and in the price of cinnamon leaf oil and guano, the exports of which rank second and third respectively in order of value. Most planters' estates are mortgaged and, owing to falls in the prices of their products, the planters are experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations. The position, however, has improved with the rise in the price of copra. Labourers' wages have been reduced but, on the whole, for those willing to work, employment has been available. Planters generally have allowed and encouraged their labourers to grow crops themselves, such as sweet potatoes, manioc, etc., which, together with rice (imported) and fish (which are abundant) form their staple diet. The trade figures given above indicate the extent to which the value of the trade of the Colony has declined. A beneficial effect of the recent depression has been to impress on the planters the necessity for better and more intensive cultivation, to which many are applying themselves with advice and guidance from the Agricultural Department.

In May, the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty King George the Fifth was celebrated throughout the Colony. In the ensuing celebrations, over which Governor Sir Gordon Lethem, K.C.M.G., personally presided, all sections of the community participated.

On 5th November, Sir Gordon Lethem proceeded on leave of absence prior to his assumption of duties as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Colony of the Leeward Islands.

From the 6th November the Government was administered by Mr. A. E. Weatherhead, C.M.G., Provincial Commissioner in the Administrative Service of the Protectorate of Uganda, in pursuance of His Majesty's Dormant Commission dated 5th October, 1935.

The Colony has received generous assistance from the Colonial Development Fund. The following grants were sanctioned during the year :—

	£
For the services of an entomologist for two years' research into the question of scale pests on coconut plantations	3,000
(*a*) For the completion of the coastal road system on the main island of Mahe	30,000
For the reconstruction and building of bridges ...	2,000
For coast works—opening of reef passes and building of landing jetties	825
For a motor roller and lorry for road work ...	650
For the training of an Agricultural Student at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad	855
(*b*) For improving hotel accommodation	960

(*a*) Half is a free grant and half a loan free of interest for the present.

(*b*) Loan.

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out of print.

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* Copies may be seen in the Library of the Colonial Office.

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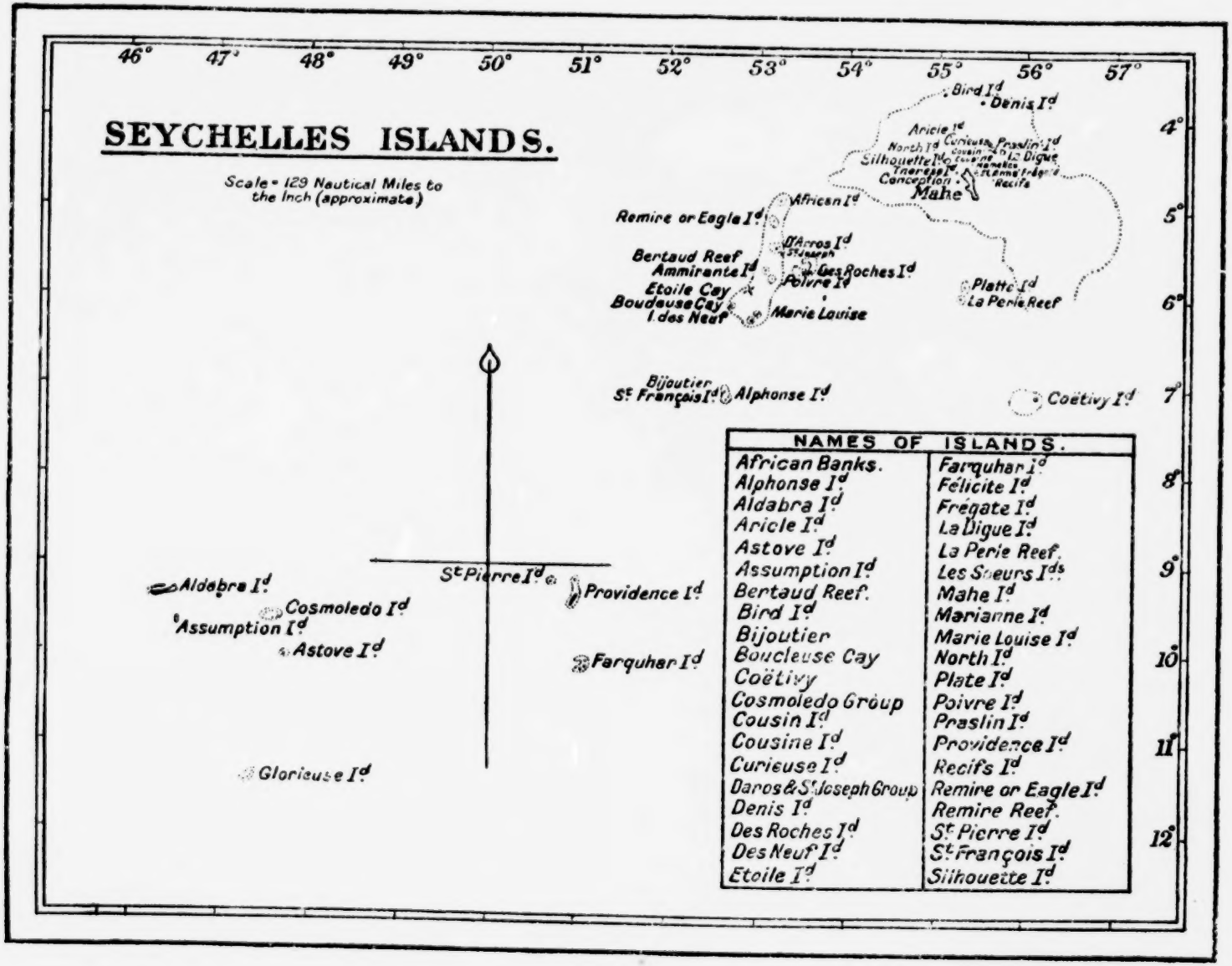
SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

Scale = 129 Nautical Miles to the Inch (approximate)



NAMES OF ISLANDS.	
African Banks.	Farquhar Id.
Alphonse Id.	Félicite Id.
Aldabra Id.	Frégate Id.
Aricle Id.	La Digue Id.
Astove Id.	La Perle Reef.
Assumption Id.	Les Sœurs Ids
Bertaud Reef.	Mahe Id.
Bird Id.	Marianne Id.
Bijoutier	Marie Louise Id.
Boucleuse Cay	North Id.
Coëtivy	Plate Id.
Cosmoledo Group	Poivre Id.
Cousin Id.	Praslin Id.
Cousine Id.	Providence Id.
Curieuse Id.	Recifs Id.
Daros & St. Joseph Group	Remire or Eagle Id.
Denis Id.	Remire Reef.
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Etoile Id.	Silhouette Id.

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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES FOR 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Seychelles comprises ninety-two islands, which are situated in the Indian Ocean between the 4th and 10th parallels of South Latitude and 46 and 57 lines of East Longitude. Their aggregate area is estimated at 156¼ square miles. The nearest point on the mainland is Mombasa, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles, and the islands of Zanzibar, Mauritius and Madagascar are respectively 970 miles, 934 miles and 600 miles away.

The main group of islands are of rugged granite formation and lie on the centre of a bank which is about 12,000 miles square. They were visited in 1934 by the John Murray Scientific Expedition to the Indian Ocean in the Egyptian survey vessel *Mabahiss,* under the direction of Colonel Seymour Sewell, I.M.S., Sc.D. In the report of this expedition the results of the soundings and observations taken point to the fact that the Seychelles Islands are peaks on the middle of a great submerged

bank, which may have once been part of a southern continent, the continent of Gondwanaland (or Lemuria as it is sometimes called), which was supposed to connect India with Madagascar and South Africa and which went down after a tremendous volcanic upheaval when the lost continent began to subside 10,000 years ago.

The Seychelles Islands are pecular in being one of the few places in the world which were entirely uninhabited when they were discovered, and also in their extraordinary lack of fauna. Apart from the ordinary domestic animal a few harmless snakes exist on the hills, rats and small lizards are common, and the flying fox is sometimes seen. The giant tortoise is found indigenous on Aldabra.

The largest and most important island is Mahe, which has an area of 55 square miles and a population of 25,367 out of an estimated 29,803 in the whole Colony. It is of extremely rugged formation with a very narrow littoral, from which rises steeply a central range from 2,000 to almost 3,000 feet. The highest point is Morne Seychellois at 2,993 feet. The scenery is very beautiful and the sea extremely colourful, owing to the coral reefs which surround the island.

Mahe has only one harbour, at Victoria, which is the principal town and the headquarters of Government. The habour is about three miles wide and is protected on the east and south by a circle of islands which form the Mahe group. About one third of the total population live in Victoria, the rest being scattered in hamlets which lie along the sea shore or in estates on the hills.

Other islands of the main group and mostly of granite formation are:—

> Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Frigate (700 acres); Felicite (689 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres) and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

Outlying islands are all of coral formation, the farthest from the main group being Aldabra, which is 630 miles from Mahe. Aldabra is one of the most interesting of the Seychelles Islands. It has a lagoon over 50 square miles in area which teems with the hawksbill turtle and the edible turtle. The island is also the home of the giant tortoise. It is visited only by small schooners from Seychelles which collect coconuts and turtles and transport labour.

The main islands are now given up to the cultivation of coconuts, patchouli, vanilla, citriodora and palmarosa, while cinnamon grows wild on all the hills. On many of the outlying islands coconut palms flourish particularly well, while others have a rich treasure of guano. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map at the end of this Report.

Climate.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the south-east trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the year, the north-west monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86°F. but seldom falls below 74°F. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name the islands originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe after Mahe de Labourdonnais. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Viscomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution, Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, M. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. M. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formerly taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element of the population, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the high seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council, and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as President, three senior Departmental Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council and one Unofficial Member. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of Cable and Wireless, Limited, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

A census was taken on 26th April, 1931, showing a total population at that date of 27,444 (13,289 males and 14,155 females), with a distribution as follows:—

Mahe	21,712
Neighbouring islands	4,240
Outlying islands	1,492

The following are the more important vital statistics for the year, as compared with those for 1935:—

	1935	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1936	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	819	27·48	877	28·78
Deaths	420	14·09	354	11·62
Marriages	188	6·31	218	7·16
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year) ...	89	108·67	49	55·9
Emigration	383	12·85	534	17·53
Immigration	381	12·78	669	21·96

The census of 1931 was the fifth taken in the Colony. The following figures of population show the rates of increase per decennial period:—

1891.	*1901.*	*1911.*	*1921.*	*1931.*
16,440	19,237	22,691	24,523	27,444

These figures may be taken to indicate increases by birth, since neither immigration nor emigration is on a large scale, and, roughly, the numbers balance each other.

IV.—HEALTH.

The health of the population generally is good. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never established itself, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox. There was no epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years, do any of the above diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygienic principles is important,

especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized, and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer who acts as Resident Surgeon and is also in charge of an X-ray and Electro-Therapeutic Department, three Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), and seven Probationary Nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year, 1,221 cases were treated in the Seychelles Government Hospital.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene.

Leprosy shows no improvement as compared with the previous year; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A leper settlement has been established on an island 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Forty-five lepers are isolated in the settlements and 52 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. Visits of relatives are allowed under appropriate conditions. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits and pigeons.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. At present there are 31 inmates.

Tuberculosis shows a slight improvement. A modern tuberculosis ward, situated in the hospital grounds, was completed during the year 1931 for the isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of the islands are planted with coconuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,500 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known locally as " Decoque ", is met with. The Government hopes when conditions permit to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

V.—HOUSING.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coconut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1*s.* 6*d.*) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more thrifty among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coconut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The chief exports of the Colony are the products of the coconut. The net export values of these products for 1936 were as follows:—

	Rs.
Coconuts (8,000)	270
Copra (5,135 tons)	864,530

Cinnamon, a jungle tree, is exploited for its essential oil, which, in spite of the fluctuation of price, remains the export product second in importance, with an output of 71,757 kilos, exported mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.260,672. Cinnamon bark exports amounted to 33 tons, of a value of Rs.1,856. 2,902 kilos of patchouli oil, valued at Rs.31,626 were also exported. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 575 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.5,305. The Colony is well adapted for the development of fisheries. 2,400,000 lbs. of fresh fish, representing Rs.800,000, are captured per annum for local consumption. 4,456 kilos of calipee worth Rs.8,033, and 1,095 kilos of tortoise-shell worth Rs.14,045, were exported in 1936. The other fishery products are green turtle-shell, 240 kilos valued at Rs.180, and tripangs, 359 kilos valued at Rs.260. 30,100 kilos of birds' eggs yolk liquid worth Rs.4,952 were also produced.

Phosphatic guano was exported to the United Kingdom, Kenya, New Zealand, and Mauritius to the amount of 23,942 tons valued at Rs.371,470.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and intrusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands cover an area of about 13,597 acres. Land under forest stretching over 2,500 acres, one-fifth of which is under commercial timber, produced timber for the local market. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and bananas, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas totalling over 500 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other livestock comprise: horses, 15; asses, 25; cattle, 1,000; goats, 400. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows:—

Produce.	*Quantity.* lb.	*Value.* Rs.
Meat	73,600	29,440
Hides (mostly from calves)	421	210
Pork meat	54,000	13,500
Turtle meat	23,500	7,050

Almost every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both. Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

Farm labourers under 15 years numbered ...	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over numbered	6,141
Fishermen numbered	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except phosphate guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals or small companies.

VII.—**COMMERCE.**

The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1936 amounted to Rs.2,707,321, being an increase of Rs.819,793 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.1,132,141, an increase of Rs.240,757, as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.1,575,180, an increase of Rs.578,971 compared with the year 1935.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1936:—

	Rs.
Trade imports	1,106,880
Government imports	25,261
	1,132,141
Domestic exports	1,575,180
Excess of exports over imports ...	Rs.443,039

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table:—

Countries.	*Exports.*	*Imports.*
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	386,931	438,405
India	568,052	380,899
France	5,812	41,271
United States of America	253,976	9,707
Japan	—	59,443
Australia	2,250	23,000

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1935 and 1936 was as follows:—

	1935.	1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	486,900	276,240
India	82,141	563,340
Mauritius	15,573	24,950
	Rs.584,614	Rs.864,530

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same period was:—

	1935.	1936.
	Rs.	Rs.
United Kingdom ...	56,767	41,062
United States of America	152,796	251,236
	Rs.209,563	Rs.292,298

The quantity and value of guano exported for the same period was:—

	1935.		1936.	
	Quantity. Tons.	*Value.* Rs.	*Quantity.* Tons.	*Value.* Rs.
United Kingdom ...	—	—	2,050	41,000
Ceylon	500	10,000	—	—
Kenya	76	860	275	2,750
Mauritius	1,410	18,440	1,307	13,070
New Zealand ...	6,000	90,000	20,310	314,650
South Africa ...	346	5,190	—	—
Belgium	1,750	26,250	—	—
Total ...	10,082	150,740	23,942	371,470

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows:—

	United Kingdom. Rs.	*India.* Rs.	*Japan.* Rs.	*Russia.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1935	32,998	42,692	20,054	132	95,876
1936	37,908	71,512	20,196	348	129,964

General Course of Prices.

The price of imported articles has continued at the level of the previous year while the price of exported produce has shown an appreciable rise.

Copra was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.145 to Rs.223 per ton as compared with Rs.105 to Rs. 180 per ton during the year 1935.

The price of essential oil (cinnamon leaf) fluctuated from Rs.3·30 per litre to Rs.4·00 per litre during the year. Caret (tortoise-shell) was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.10 to Rs.14 a kilo. Essential oil distillation has increased during recent years, but is now very seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case with copra, the principal industry.

Approximately two-fifths of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs.438,405). India supplied 2,573 tons of rice (Rs.228,303).

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally oral, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into consideration the cost of living, the average being Rs.8 per month—equal to 100 lbs. of rice, the staple foodstuff.

Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation; they earn Rs. 4 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are good. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is:—men, Rs.4; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them on their return of Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations and friends.

Cost of Living of Senior Officials.
(*Family of 2 adults and 2 children.*)

The rent of houses is Rs.25 to Rs.50 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows: cooks Rs.20 to Rs.30, house boys Rs.7 to Rs.15, maid servants Rs.7 to Rs.10, washerwomen Rs.10 to Rs.15, gardeners Rs.10 to Rs.15. The average cost of living per month is as follows:—

	Rs.
Rent	35
Food	100
Cook	25
Boy	10
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Lighting	15
Gardener	12
Fuel	8
School books and fees	15
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	20
Charities	5
Taxes	15
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	15
Bedding and household utensils, etc. ...	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.343

Average Rate of Wages for Labour.

	Per annum.	*Per day of 8 hours.*	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.*
Agricultural:—	*Rs.*	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
Managers ...	500—720	—	—
Overseers ...	180—360	—	—
Gardeners ...	120—180	—	1·00 per day.
Labourers ...	72—120	·40	1·50 per night.
Domestic Service:—			
Predial ...	120—180	—	—
Domestic ...	120—360	—	—
Trade and Manufacture:—			
Carpenters ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons ...	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths ...	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.8 to Rs.10 per month.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 26 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 19 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,320 pupils (1,039 boys and 1,281 girls); the average attendance in 1936 was 1,846·4 or 79·58 per cent.; the remaining schools are Church of England schools with 554 pupils (320 boys and 234 girls); the average attendance was 434·1 or 78·35 per cent. The Churches receive an annual Government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1936 was 200. St. Joseph's Convent School afforded education to 98 girls (and 16 small boys) up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

A scholarship of the annual value, free of income-tax, either of Rs.1,200 (approximately £90) tenable for 5 years or of Rs.1,500 (approximately £110) tenable for 4 years, together with a free passage to England and back on completion of

studies, has been awarded when funds allowed to a scholar, under the age of 19, to enable him to pursue his studies in any part of the British Empire outside Seychelles. The scholarship is awarded on the results of the London Matriculation Examination to the candidate who has passed in the first division and is recommended for the scholarship by the examiners.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.17,343.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Dances and concerts are given by these.

The visit of a warship, twice or oftener a year, from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. A programme to complete the roads of the main island was commenced during the previous year from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund of £30,000, half of which is a free grant and half a loan free of interest for the present.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing and auxiliary coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and large sailing and auxiliary ships ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves mainly as a bi-weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

Communication with the outer world is maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company's mail steamers which call at Port Victoria once every four weeks *en route* from Bombay to Mombasa and East African ports, and once every eight weeks on their return voyage from Mombasa to Bombay.

Steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line call at Mahe once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Singapore, Hong Kong and Batavia.

Steamers of the Scandinavian East African Line call at Mahe approximately every two months on their way from Madagascar ports to Europe.

The above-mentioned are the regular callers, whilst others (steamers and sailing ships) call at Mahe occasionally for various ports.

A low-power wireless station which was attached to the Postal Department was transferred to Cable and Wireless, Limited, in December, 1934. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it is mainly useful for communication with vessels calling at Port Victoria althought, owing to its geographical position with respect to certain sea routes, an increasing number of vessels passing within range signal the station and frequently make use of it for traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.

The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.28,421 and the expenditure to Rs.12,881. The mail service during the year was fairly good and mails were despatched on 32 occasions. The regular mail service is performed by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers which call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. This service has been supplemented by the steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line which call once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Singapore, Hong Kong and Batavia. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

In 1936 the Post Office continued to despatch air mails to Europe, the near East, and those African territories on the London—Cape Town air route. The transit of mails to Europe by air via Karachi and Nairobi takes approximately 12 days and 15 days respectively, as compared with 21 days and 25 days approximately for mails by steamer alone via Bombay and Mombasa.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount of deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.267,266, an increase of Rs.51,192 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchases and sell Drafts and

undertakes the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

Currency.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation:—silver 50-cent pieces and 25-cent pieces. Mauritius silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5 and 2 cents, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes have been withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values:—Rs.50, Rs.10, Rs.5, Re.1, and one-half rupee. The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1936, amounted to Rs.392,602 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as:—

(1) *L'aune,* a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metres.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare, for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette,* employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tierçon,* a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt,* a measure of capacity for coconut oil = 7·57 litres.

(6) *The cord,* used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengery work are done by contract. The construction of new roads and the maintenance and repair of public buildings and roads constituted the principal activities of the Department during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offerences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for all Central and North Mahe District, another for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Parslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In certain circumstances appeals lie, and points of law may be referred, to the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

Police.

The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1936 of:—One Superintendent, three Sergeants, nine Corporals, sixty-eight Constables.

There were seven Police stations in Mahe, two in Praslin, and one at La Digue.

Criminal Statistics for 1936:—

	Total Numbers.			
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned.*
Supreme Court ...	684	493	416	61
Summary Courts	1,137	967	892	47

Twenty-five male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment, and in seven cases were fined or bound over. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prisons.

The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coconut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work. The health of the prisoners was excellent.

In 1936, the daily average number in prison amounted to 35 men and 2 women.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no factory or workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Important Ordinances passed in 1936:—

No. 2.—An Ordinance to make provision with respect to the Currency Notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such Currency Notes upon a permanent basis.

No. 18.—An Ordinance to make provision concerning the employment of Women on underground work in mines of all kinds.

No. 20.—An Ordinance to amend the Road Transport Ordinance, 1935, and to enable regulations to be made for the purpose of giving effect to any Convention for facilitating the international circulation of motor cars.

No. 22.—An Ordinance to amend and consolidate the Law relating to the Seychelles Savings Bank.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs.801,878, being an increase on the estimate of Rs.70,366. The expenditure amounted to Rs.706,430, showing a decrease of Rs.15,490 on the estimate.

The following statement shows the revenue for each of the last five years:—

	Rs.
1932	701,164
1933	592,043
1934	795,766
1935	728,173*
1936	801,878†

* (Includes a sum of Rs. 166,182 transferred from the Guano Royalty Fund.)

† (Includes a sum of Rs. 106,306 received from the Colonial Development Fund.)

The following statement shows the expenditure for each of the last five years:—

	Ordinary.	*From Surplus Funds.*
	Rs.	Rs.
1932	681,446	4,185
1933	654,500	4,049
1934	679,255	—
1935	675,058	(Rs.36,046 from C.D.F.)
1936	706,430	(Rs.106,306 from C.D.F.)

Customs brought in the greater part of the revenue, i.e., Rs.360,082.

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years:—

	Customs.	*Taxes.*	*Other Sources.*	*Total.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1932 ...	252,531	164,319	284,314	701,164
1933 ...	267,678	150,686	173,679	592,043
1934 ...	274,037	150,498	371,231	795,766
1935 ...	289,080	149,853	289,235	728,173
1936 ...	360,082	146,248	295,548*	801,878*

Public Debt.

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 1st January, 1936, was Rs.491,230. On the 31st December, 1936, the amount had increased to Rs.586,768.

Taxation.

The following are the main heads of taxation:—

Customs Tariff.—An Ordinance was passed in July 1932 granting a minimum preference of 10 per cent. in respect of goods of Empire origin, the *ad valorem* duty on which is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on food-stuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 cent of a rupee per degree of alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

* Includes a sum of Rs. 106,306 received from the Colonial Development Fund.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano, mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark.

Details of *Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc.*, are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A *Rural House Tax* of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. is imposed with certain exceptions on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be one rupee when-even the value of such house is less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

Income-Tax.—This was payable during 1936 at the following rates:—

When income is less than Rs.1,000 the rate shall be 1 per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of Rs.2.

When income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more:—

2	per cent.	on the	1st	Rs.1,000.	
3	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.1,000	up to Rs.3,000.
5	,,	,,	,,	Rs.3,000	,, Rs.8,000.
$7\frac{1}{2}$	,,	,,	,,	Rs.8,000	,, Rs.15,000.
10	,,	,,	,,	Rs.15,000	,, Rs.25,000.
15	,,	,,	,,	Rs.25,000.	

Company income tax was payable as follows:—

5	per cent.	on the	1st	Rs.5,000.	
10	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.5,000	up to Rs.10,000.
15	,,	,,	,,	Rs.10,000.	

XVI.—GENERAL.

There has been an appreciable rise in the price of copra, the main product of the Colony, and in the price of cinnamon leaf oil and guano, the exports of which rank second and third respectively in order of value. Most planters' estates are mortgaged and, owing to falls in the prices of their products, the planters are experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations. The position, however, has improved with the rise in the price of copra. Labourers' wages have been reduced but, on the whole, for those willing to work, employment has been available. Planters generally have allowed and encouraged their labourers to grow crops themselves, such as sweet potatoes, manioc, etc., which, together with rice (imported) and fish (which are abundant) form their staple diet. The trade figures

given above indicate the extent to which the value of the trade of the Colony has declined. A beneficial effect of the recent depression has been to impress on the planters the necessity for better and more intensive cultivation, to which many are applying themselves with advice and guidance from the Agricultural Department.

From the 1st January to the 17th March the Government was administered by Mr. A. E. Weatherhead, C.M.G., Provincial Commissioner in the Administrative Service of the Protectorate of Uganda, in pursuance of a Dormant Commission, dated 5th October, 1935, from His former Majesty King George the Fifth.

From the 25th March to the 18th May the Government was administered by Mr. E. Gardiner Smith, Chief Justice, in pursuance of Royal Letters Patent of the 31st August, 1903.

On the 19th May, Mr. A. F. Grimble, C.M.G., arrived in the Colony and entered upon the duties of his office as Governor and Commander-in-Chief on appointment by His former Majesty King Edward the Eighth.

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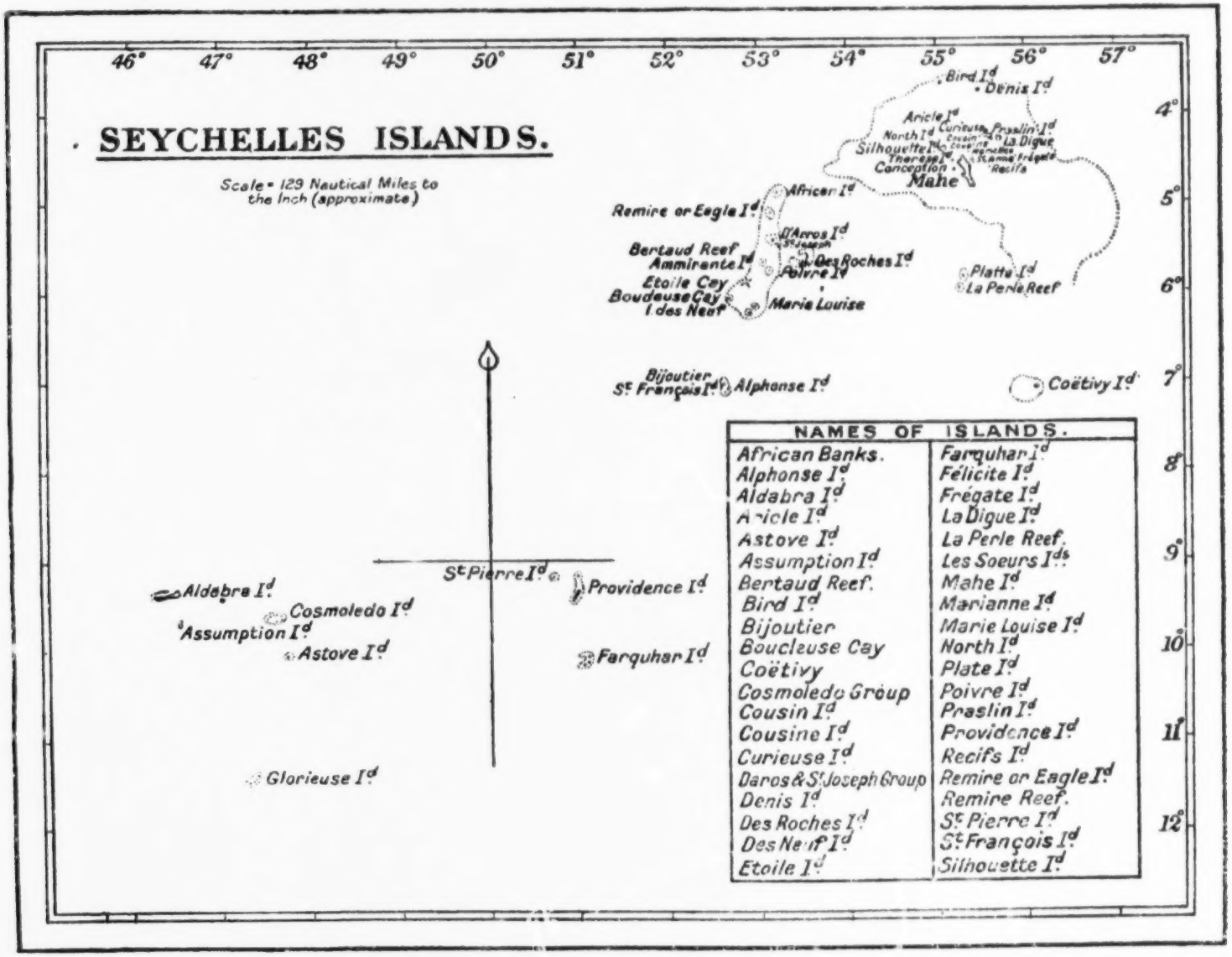
* Copies may be seen in the Library of the Colonial Office.



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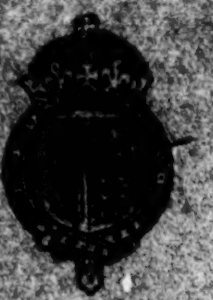

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF SEYCHELLES FOR 1937

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

The Colony of Seychelles comprises ninety-two islands, which are situated in the Indian Ocean between the 4th and 10th parallels of South Latitude and 46 and 57 lines of East Longitude. Their aggregate area is estimated at 156¼ square miles. The nearest point on the mainland is Mombasa, a distance of approximately 1,000 miles, and the islands of Zanzibar, Mauritius and Madagascar are respectively 970 miles, 934 miles and 600 miles away.

The main group of islands are of rugged granite formation and lie on the centre of a bank which is about 12,000 miles square. They were visited in 1934 by the John Murray Scientific Expedition to the Indian Ocean in the Egyptian survey vessel *Mabahiss,* under the direction of Colonel Seymour Sewell, I.M.S., Sc.D. In the report of this expedition the results of the soundings and observations taken point to the fact that the Seychelles Islands are peaks on the middle of a great submerged bank, which may have once been part of a

southern continent, the continent of Gondwanaland (or Lemuria as it is sometimes called), which was supposed to connect India with Madagascar and South Africa and which went down after a tremendous volcanic upheaval when the lost continent began to subside 10,000 years ago.

The Seychelles Islands are peculiar in being one of the few places in the world which were entirely uninhabited when they were discovered, and also in their extraordinary lack of fauna. Apart from the ordinary domestic animal a few harmless snakes exist on the hills, rats and small lizards are common, and the flying fox is sometimes seen. The giant tortoise is found indigenous on Aldabra.

The largest and most important island is Mahe, which has an area of 55 square miles and a population of 26,327 out of an estimated 30,940 in the whole Colony. It is of extremely rugged formation with a very narrow littoral, from which rises steeply a central range from 2,000 to almost 3,000 feet. The highest point is Morne Seychellois at 2,993 feet. The scenery is very beautiful and the sea extremely colourful, owing to the coral reefs which surround the island.

Mahe has only one harbour, at Victoria, which is the principal town and the headquarters of Government. The harbour is about three miles wide and is protected on the east and south by a circle of islands which form the Mahe group. About one third of the total population live in Victoria, the rest being scattered in hamlets which lie along the sea shore or in estates on the hills.

Other islands of the main group and mostly of granite formation are:—

Praslin (9,700 acres); Silhouette (4,900 acres); La Digue (2,500 acres); Curieuse (900 acres); Frigate (700 acres); Felicite (689 acres); North Island (525 acres); Ste. Anne (500 acres); Denis (340 acres); Cerf (290 acres) and Bird or Sea Cow Island (160 acres).

Outlying islands are all of coral formation, the farthest from the main group being Aldabra, which is 630 miles from Mahe. Aldabra is one of the most interesting of the Seychelles Islands. It has a lagoon over 50 square miles in area which teems with the hawksbill turtle and the edible turtle. The island is also the home of the giant tortoise. It is visited only by small schooners from Seychelles which collect coconuts and turtles and transport labour.

The main islands are now given up to the cultivation of coconuts, patchouli, vanilla, citriodora and palmarosa, while cinnamon grows wild on all the hills. On many of the outlying islands coconut palms flourish particularly well, while others have a rich treasure of guano. The names of all the islands are given on the sketch map at the end of this Report.

Climate.

The climate is pleasant on the whole and is quite healthy, there being no malaria, but it lacks bracing qualities. For the six months from about May in each year, the south-east trade wind is constant. This corresponds to the winter season elsewhere in southern latitudes. For the rest of the year, the north-west monsoon blows, but with less force, and for a part of this time the weather becomes uncomfortably warm. The maximum shade temperature rarely exceeds 86° F. but seldom falls below 74° F. Variations in temperature are more noticeable than would be the case outside of the tropics.

The rainfall is heaviest between the months of November and April, but it is not confined to that season. It varies from 70 inches to 135 inches in a year, the average being 90 inches. The southern islands of the Colony are only just out of the range of the cyclone belt, within which Mauritius falls.

History.

The islands are believed to have been discovered by a Portuguese named Pedro Mascaregnas, 1505, but the discovery was not apparently followed by any attempt at colonization.

Previous to the French occupation they were the resort of pirates who infested the Indian Ocean, some of whose names are borne by descendants in Mahe at the present time.

Under the Government at Mauritius of Labourdonnais, whose name the islands originally bore, their position was first defined in 1743, and M. Picault, who took possession in the name of the King of France, called the principal island Mahe after Mahe de Labourdonnais. Later on the group was renamed the Seychelles Islands, in honour of the Viscomte Moreau des Sechelles, who was Controller-General of Finance under Louis XV from 1754 to 1756.

During the war of the French Revolution, Mahe was extremely useful to French ships as a place of refuge and refitment, but on 17th May, 1794, it was captured by Captain Newcome, of H.M.S. *Orpheus*.

The last French Governor, M. de Quincy, who was born at Paris in November, 1748, became (after the departure of Lieutenant Sullivan, R.N., who had been placed in charge) the first Agent Civil under the British Government. M. de Quincy's reign as French Governor lasted 20 years. He remained for 18 years in the service of the British Government, and died on 10th July, 1827.

The capitulation was renewed in 1806, but it was not until the capture of Mauritius in 1810 that Seychelles was formally taken possession of by the appointment of an Agent, and incorporated as a dependency of that Colony. A board of Civil Commissioners was appointed in 1872, when the finances of Seychelles were separated from those of Mauritius.

In 1897, the Administrator was given full powers as Governor, and Seychelles was practically separated from Mauritius. The separation was completely carried out in 1903, when Seychelles was, by Order in Council, constituted a separate Colony under its own Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

During the French occupation, settlers, mostly from Mauritius, were placed on Mahe and the descendants of these form the majority of the European and mixed element of the population, whose language is French. Slaves were also brought in from Mauritius and this class, after the British occupation, was greatly augmented by the fact of Seychelles being chosen as a refuge for African slaves freed from time to time on the high seas by the Navy. In the conditions existing in Central Africa until late in the last century, it was not practicable to return these people to their homes. Their descendants to-day form the large majority of the population of the Colony. These have retained the cheerful, carefree characteristics of their forbears, but they have lost all tribal tradition and language and now speak a patois of French, locally known as Creole. All profess Christianity, most being of the Roman Catholic faith, and they all bear French names, presumably given to their fathers on baptism. They are a simple and law-abiding people, keep themselves and their children surprisingly clean, but, as a class, they are very improvident.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The Government organization is of the usual "Crown Colony" type. The Secretary of State for the Colonies is the responsible Home Authority.

A Governor and Commander-in-Chief exercises jurisdiction under the Common Law (the Code Napoleon), relative Imperial Orders in Council, and local Ordinances enacted by a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor, as President, three senior Departmental Heads and three unofficial residents appointed by the King on the nomination of the Governor, in the case of each of the latter, for a period of three years at a time. An Executive Council is composed of the Governor and the three Official Members of the Legislative Council and one Unofficial Member. In the absence of the Governor, the Chief Justice acts as Administrator of the Colony.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony consists of the descendants of the early French settlers and of the African slaves, with an intermediate Creole class. A few persons of United Kingdom birth are employed in the service of the Government and of Cable and Wireless, Limited, and a very small number are otherwise employed.

A census was taken on 26th April, 1931, showing a total population at that date of 27,444 (13,289 males and 14,155 females), with a distribution as follows:—

Mahe	21,712
Neighbouring islands	4,240
Outlying islands	1,492

The following are the more important vital statistics for the year, as compared with those for 1936:—

	1936	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*	1937	*Per* 1,000 *of population.*
Births	877	28·78	827	26·72
Deaths	354	11·62	440	14·22
Marriages	218	7·16	199	6·43
Infantile Mortality (deaths under one year)... . .	49	55·9	67	81·02
Emigration	534	17·53	557	18·00
Immigration	669	21·96	649	20·98

The census of 1931 was the fifth taken in the Colony. The following figures of population show the rates of increase per decennial period:—

1891.	*1901.*	*1911.*	*1921.*	*1931.*
16,440	19,237	22,691	24,523	27,444

These figures may be taken to indicate increases by birth, since neither immigration nor emigration is on a large scale, and, roughly, the numbers balance each other.

IV.—HEALTH.

The health of the population generally is good. Nevertheless, the Colony is not immune from many ailments and the treatment of disease and the steps taken to conserve the health of the people must be referred to. Fortunately the anopheles mosquito has never been introduced, or, if so, has never established itself, so that malarial fever, which is prevalent in most other places in the tropics, is unknown here. Occasional outbreaks occur of jaundice, whooping-cough, influenza, dengue fever, and chicken-pox. There was no epidemic during the year under review, nor, in most years, do any of the above diseases occur to an alarming extent. Ankylostomiasis (hookworm) is common. For the treatment of this disease provision exists, and observance of hygienic principles is important, especially with respect to the provision and inspection of latrines. Neglect of proper precautions is dealt with by prosecution before the Courts.

The Medical Department is well staffed, organized, and equipped to deal with the medical needs of the people. A large hospital, well situated in the town of Victoria, affords accommodation not only to the sick poor, its primary purpose, but also to those who can afford to pay at first, second, or third class rates, all of which are very moderate. The staff consists of a Senior Medical Officer who acts as Resident Surgeon and is also in charge of an X-ray and Electro-Therapeutic Department, three Nursing Sisters (of the Order of St. Joseph de Cluny), and seven Probationary Nurses undergoing training. A cottage hospital has also been provided to serve the needs of the people of Praslin and La Digue islands, with an Assistant Medical Officer in charge and a trained nurse. A third Medical Officer is in charge of the district of Anse Royale on the main island. Periodical medical inspections are made of the outlying islands in the interests of those employed there.

During the year, 1,413 cases were treated in the Seychelles Government Hospital.

The school children are given simple lessons in hygiene.

Leprosy shows no improvement as compared with the previous year; its incidence is confined mainly to the African labourers. A leper settlement has been established on an island 54 acres in extent and most of the lepers have been removed from a smaller island inadequate for its purpose. Forty-five lepers are isolated in the settlements and 52 others are under supervision. Treatment, especially in the earlier stages, is giving encouraging results. Visits of relatives are allowed under appropriate conditions. Most of the lepers have small gardens of their own and they keep pets, such as rabbits and pigeons.

Work on the erection of a modern leper settlement on Curieuse Island, of 900 acres, was commenced during the year. The project involves the use of half of the island as a leper settlement, which will be run on the lines of modern leper settlements in the East. It is hoped when the new settlement is opened to remove all the lepers now segregated on the two small islands to Curieuse.

An asylum at Anse Royale exists for the reception and treatment of lunatics. At present there are 32 inmates.

Tuberculosis shows a slight improvement. A modern tuberculosis ward, situated in the hospital grounds, was completed during the year 1931 for the isolation of patients.

The outlying islands contain no permanent residents. Most of the islands are planted with coconuts for which labour is engaged from the island of Mahe, all together absorbing about 1,500 men, women, and children. Conditions are good and there is little sickness. Some outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred in the past and another deficiency disease, known

locally as " Decoque ", is met with. The Government hopes when conditions permit to obtain the services of a research medical officer for investigation of the cause of the latter disease.

The Medical Department absorbs a considerable proportion of the revenue of the Colony, but it is money well spent.

V.—HOUSING.

The wage-earning population on estates are accommodated in small thatched huts made of leaves from the coconut tree. A fee is paid by the manager to erect the huts and when the labourer leaves the estate the huts remain the property of the employer. All materials are supplied by the estate. Many of the labourers do not reside on estates and, apart from the few who own a plot of ground, these rent a plot for one rupee (1s. 6d.) a month to erect a hut which, generally, is made of leaves. The more thrifty among them build wooden houses, roofed with galvanized iron and having two rooms and sometimes a verandah. Those renting a room in a house in the town generally pay from Rs.2 to Rs.3 per month. Sanitary Inspectors carry out a house-to-house inspection of all premises to enforce sanitary laws. There is no shortage of dwellings nor any congestion. There are no building societies.

The accommodation for labourers in the outlying islands consists of small thatched huts with walls covered with coconut leaves, the ground forming the floor. Certain huts are single, whilst others accommodate two to three families.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The chief exports of the Colony are the products of the coconut. The net export values of these products for 1937 were as follows:—

	Rs.
Coconuts (26,100)	612
Copra (5,611¾ tons)	1,002,051

Cinnamon, a jungle tree, is exploited for its essential oil, which, in spite of the fluctuation of price, remains the export product second in importance, with an output of 70,289½ kilos, exported mainly to the United States of America, representing a value of Rs.318,527. Cinnamon bark exports amounted to 14½ tons, of a value of Rs.439. 2,334½ kilos of patchouli oil, valued at Rs.32,603 were also exported. Mention should also be made of the vanilla industry, which, although gradually dying out, produced 466 kilos for exportation, representing a value of Rs.4,330. The Colony is well adapted for the development of fisheries, about 3,000,000 lb. of fresh fish, approximately Rs.450,000 in value, were caught in 1937 for local consumption. 4,416 kilos of calipee worth Rs.8,304, and 896 kilos of tortoise-

shell worth Rs.10,573, were exported in 1937. The other fishery products are green turtle-shell, 115 kilos valued at Rs.115, and tripangs, 208 kilos valued at Rs.238. 27,890 kilos of birds' eggs yolk liquid worth Rs.5,591 were also produced.

Phosphatic guano was exported to the United Kingdom, Kenya, New Zealand, Mauritius, and French Possessions to the amount of 9,594 tons valued at Rs.105,240.

No geological survey has been made of the Colony, which is of granite formation with occasional dykes of basalt and intrusions of dolerite. Unproductive lands covering about one-third of the acreage of the Colony comprise outcrops of granite following erosion and coral reefs still in their position of growth. Other productive but uncultivated lands cover on area of about 13,597 acres. Land under forest stretching over 3,500 acres, about one-fourth of which is under commercial timber, produced timber for the local market. Crops of tobacco, coffee, sugar-cane, maize, vegetables, and manioc, which, together with breadfruit and bananas, are all consumed locally, are grown in areas totalling over 500 acres.

The number of pigs in the Colony is 7,500. Other livestock comprise: horses, 15; asses, 100; cattle, 1,500; goats, 1,000. The yield of animal produce during the year under review was as follows: —

Produce.	*Quantity.* lb.	*Value.* Rs.
Meat	77,690	27,968
Hides (mostly from calves)	457	228
Pork meat	54,300	16,290
Turtle meat	28,250	7,062

Almost every Seychellois is an agriculturist or a fisherman or both. Estates are run either by the owners themselves or leased to individuals on short terms.

Farm labourers under 15 years numbered	1,374
,, ,, of 15 years and over numbered ...	6,141
Fishermen numbered	1,100

There are no exploitable minerals in the Colony (except phosphate guano) and no manufactures. Baskets, straw hats, mats, etc., are produced but only in a very small way. All production is in the hands of individuals or small companies.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The foreign trade of the Colony during the year 1937 amounted to Rs.2,765,416, being an increase of Rs.58,095 as compared with the previous year.

The total imports amounted to Rs.1,262,976, an increase of Rs.130,835, as compared with the previous year.

The total exports amounted to Rs.1,502,440, a decrease of Rs.72,740 compared with the year 1936.

The following statement shows the value of imports into and exports from the Colony during the year 1937:—

	Rs.
Trade imports	1,237,976
Government imports (approx.)	25,000
	1,262,976
Domestic exports	1,502,440
Excess of exports over imports	Rs.239,464

The distribution of trade among the countries principally interested is indicated in the following table:—

Countries.	*Exports.* Rs.	*Imports.* Rs.
United Kingdom	813,152	452,607
India	295,575	413,855
France	29,722	48,380
United States of America	252,636	17,957
Japan	—	63,645
Australia	—	38,435

The value of copra exported to the principal countries in 1936 and 1937 was as follows:—

	1936. Rs.	1937. Rs.
United Kingdom	276,240	681,960
India	563,340	292,589
Mauritius	24,950	27,502
	Rs.864,530	Rs. 1,002,051

The value of essential oils exported to the principal countries for the same period was:—

	1936. Rs.	1937. Rs.
United Kingdom	41,062	70,625
United States of America	251,236	252,636
France	—	23,591
Holland	—	4,519
India	—	352
	Rs.292,298	Rs. 351,723

The quantity and value of guano exported for the same period was:—

	1936. *Quantity.* *Tons.*	1936. *Value.* Rs.	1937. *Quantity.* *Tons.*	1937. *Value.* *Rs.*
United Kingdom ...	2,050	41,000	2,900	29,000
Kenya	275	2,750	384	3,840
Mauritius ...	1,307	13,070	1,610	16,100
New Zealand ...	20,310	314,650	4,400	52,800
French Possessions	—	—	300	3,500
Totals	23,942	371,470	9,594	105,240

The value of piece-goods imported from the principal countries was as follows:—

	United Kingdom. Rs.	*India.* Rs.	*Japan.* Rs.	*France.* Rs.	*Hong Kong.* Rs.	*Russia.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1936 ...	37,908	71,512	20,196	—	—	348	129,964
1937 ...	35,845	76,839	22,152	180	4,180	—	139,196

General Course of Prices.

The price of imported articles has continued at the level of the previous year while the price of exported produce has shown an appreciable rise.

Copra was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.125 to Rs.267 per ton as compared with Rs.145 to Rs.223 per ton during the year 1936.

The price of essential oil (cinnamon leaf) fluctuated from Rs.3·50 per litre to Rs.5·25 per litre during the year. Caret (tortoise-shell) was sold throughout the year at prices ranging from Rs.10 to Rs.14 a kilo. Essential oil distillation has increased during recent years, but is now very seriously affected by other competing products, as is the case with copra, the principal industry.

Over two-fifths of the imports into the Colony came from the United Kingdom (Rs.452,607). India supplied 2,586 tons of rice (Rs.242,947).

Tourist Traffic.

Hotels and seaside bungalows exist for the accommodation of an increasing influx of tourists from the East African Colonies, South Africa, and India.

VIII.—LABOUR.

The Colony is without a Labour Department, but a Factories Board was set up late in the year for the supervision of all factories and machinery as defined in the Factories Board Ordinance No. 15 of 1937. The Board, which consists of the Legal Adviser, the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Public Works and District Medical Officers, has been vested with powers of inspection and enquiry with regard to hours of work, housing, health, food, recruitment for service in the outlying islands, transport, repatriation, and the terms of contracts between masters and servants of certain classes of workers, and stands for a permanent committee of officers which should ensure that the welfare

of the Seychelles worker receives consideration from all sides. During the latter part of the year, the Director of Agriculture went on an extensive tour of the majority of the outlying islands of the Colony, as Visiting Magistrate and labour inspector. His report, which has afforded to the Factories Board data for the purpose of their investigation into labour conditions generally, has been acted upon by Government with the result that there has been an improvement in the conditions surrounding employment in the outlying islands, which employ on an average about 1,100 men, women and children removed from Mahe.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

All the unskilled work on estates is performed by native labourers. The supply of labour is adequate. Natives and their families who reside on estates are given a small allotment of land for themselves and are usually allowed to keep such small stock as pigs, goats, etc.

Labour contracts are generally oral, but the labourer goes on working from month to month for as long as he and his employer are mutually satisfied. The rates of wages are fair, taking into consideration the cost of living, the average being Rs.8 per month—equal to 100 lbs. of rice, the staple foodstuff. Women and children (about 2,000) are employed for picking cinnamon leaves for distillation; they earn Rs.4 per month for a ton of leaves delivered at the distillery, representing some five hours' work per day. As this is task work, extra hours mean extra pay. On the whole the labour situation normally is not unsatisfactory and the relations between employers and employed are good. For the male labourers also the majority of estates provide task work of half a day, or more for those desirous of earning more. The employment of labour on the outlying islands is governed by law. Written contracts are entered into for periods of six months at a time. The minimum scale of wages per month is:—men, Rs.4; women, and males under 15, Rs.2. In addition they are entitled to rations on a scale laid down by regulation. The life on these islands is liked by the labourers. They manage to save money which, in the case of most of them, on their return to Mahe, very soon disappears amongst relations and friends.

Cost of Living of Senior Officials.

(*Family of 2 adults and 2 children.*)

The rent of houses is Rs.25 to Rs.50 per month, depending on the size, locality, and grounds. The cost of servants is as follows: cooks Rs.20 to Rs.30, house boys Rs.7 to Rs.15, maid

servants Rs.7 to Rs.10, washerwomen Rs.10 to Rs.15, gardeners Rs.10 to Rs.15. The average cost of living per month is as follows:—

	Rs.
Rent	35
Food	100
Cook	25
Boy	10
Washerwoman	12
Servant	6
Lighting	15
Gardener	12
Fuel	8
School books and fees	15
Medical and dental attendance	15
Tobacco	10
Social life	20
Charities	5
Taxes	15
Church (seats)	5
Insurance	15
Bedding and household utensils, etc.	10
Clothing, boots, etc.	10
	Rs.343

AVERAGE RATE OF WAGES FOR LABOUR.

	Per annum. Rs.	*Per day of 8 hours.* Rs.	*Per task or job of 5 to 6 hours.* Rs.
Agricultural :—			
Managers	500—720	—	—
Overseers	180—360	—	—
Gardeners	120—180	—	1·00 per day.
Labourers	72—120	·40	1·50 per night.
Domestic Service :—			
Predial	120—180	—	—
Domestic	120—360	—	—
Trade and Manufacture :—			
Carpenters	240—480	1—1·50	—
Masons	240—480	1—1·50	—
Blacksmiths	300—720	—	—

Women labourers are paid approximately half the pay of men.

Labourers in Government employ receive from Rs.8 to Rs.10 per month.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

Education is entirely in the hands of the Church of England and Roman Catholic Missions and is not compulsory. There are 26 primary schools at which free elementary education is given. Of these 19 are Roman Catholic schools with 2,325 pupils (1,089 boys and 1,277 girls); the average attendance in 1937 was 1,793 or 78·26 per cent.; the remaining schools are Church of England schools with 505 pupils (279 boys and 226

girls); the average attendance was 387 or 76·63 per cent. The Churches receive an annual Government grant of Rs.22,214. The schools are required to conform to a programme of studies approved by the Governing Body of Education. Periodical inspections are made by a Government Inspector. A Marist Brothers College, known as the St. Louis College, gives both primary and secondary education up to the standard required for the University of London Matriculation Examination. The number of pupils in 1937 was 231. St. Joseph's Convent School afforded education to 119 girls (and 15 small boys) up to the School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At both institutions, moderate fees are charged which do not, however, cover expenses.

There is no public system of accident, sickness or old age insurance. Pauper relief is afforded by the Government in the form of small monthly allowances such as the necessities of each case require and by the reception in an Institute, known as the Fiennes Institute, of those unable to care for themselves. The total cost to the Government for poor relief during the year under review was Rs.19,755.

An association for the relief of the sick and poor, called " The Fellowship of Service," was started during the year. The association, which obtains funds by way of monthly subscriptions and small donations and a small annual grant from Public Funds, has done excellent work in the Colony. It has now obtained a Charter of Incorporation from Government.

Another organization which is doing valuable work is " The Seychelles Home Industries," which is run by a committee of voluntary helpers. The aim of the organization is to afford facilities, at a well-known centre, for the sale of articles of home manufacture, such as tortoiseshell work, hats, sticks, needlework, island curios, etc., on behalf of numerous small producers, who have hitherto found it difficult to dispose of their wares for lack of a central depot.

The St. Louis College has a good brass band.

Association football is played all the year round, and cricket is played every Saturday afternoon by two local teams.

Tennis is also a popular game.

A Philharmonic Society and an amateur Dramatic Society exist. Dances and concerts are given by these.

The visit of a warship, twice or oftener a year, from the East Indies Station is an event always looked forward to.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Until recently, the transport of produce was by sea, as it still is to some extent. This was a considerable handicap to planters affected, who might, at certain seasons of the year, have to

wait two or three months for a safe passage. Motor roads have been constructed, much to the satisfaction of outside planters. A programme to complete the roads of the main island was commenced during 1935 from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund of £30,000, half of which is a free grant and half a loan free of interest for the present.

There are no railways and no telephones. Small sailing and auxiliary coasters provide transport for the adjacent islands and large sailing and auxiliary ships ply to the outlying islands. A large Government motor-launch, the *Alouette*, serves mainly as a bi-weekly ferry for passengers from Mahe to Praslin and La Digue.

Communication with the outer world is maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company's mail steamers, which call at Port Victoria once every four weeks *en route* from Bombay to Mombasa and East African ports, and once every eight weeks on their return voyage from Mombasa to Bombay.

Steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line call at Mahe once every four weeks *en route* from Mombasa to Singapore, Hong Kong and Batavia.

Steamers of the Scandinavian East African Line call at Mahe approximately every two months on their way from Madagascar ports to Europe.

The above-mentioned are the regular callers, whilst others (steamers and sailing ships) call at Mahe occasionally for various ports.

A low-power wireless station which was attached to the Postal Department was transferred to Cable and Wireless, Limited, in December, 1934. Its range is approximately 400 miles and it is mainly useful for communication with vessels calling at Port Victoria although, owing to its geographical position with respect to certain sea routes, an increasing number of vessels passing within range signal the station and frequently make use of it for traffic.

Mail and Postal Service.

The revenue of the Postal Department amounted to Rs.191,705 and the expenditure to Rs.25,411. Sales of the special issue of Postage Stamps in commemoration of the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and Queen accounted for Rs.186,696·01 of the total revenue earned by the Department during the year.

The mail service during the year was fairly good and mails were despatched on 34 occasions. The regular mail service is performed by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers which call on their voyage from Bombay to Mombasa once every four weeks and on their return journey once every eight weeks. This service has been supplemented by the steamers of the Royal Dutch Mail Line which call once every four weeks

en route from Mombasa to Singapore, Hong Kong and Batavia. Mails are also despatched by various cargo steamers which call at irregular intervals.

In 1937 the Post Office continued to despatch air mails to Europe, the near East, and those African territories on the London—Cape Town air route. The transit of mails to Europe by air via Karachi and Nairobi takes approximately 14 days and 12 days respectively, as compared with 21 days and 25 days approximately for mails by steamer alone via Bombay and Mombasa.

Parcels from Europe are received via Bombay, but parcels from Seychelles are despatched via Bombay or Mombasa.

Cable Services.

Cable and Wireless, Limited, maintains a station at Victoria and gives a very satisfactory service. Seychelles is an important cable junction, there being cables to Zanzibar, Mauritius, Aden and Colombo.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The public works are under the control of a Superintendent of Public Works and Surveys, assisted by a small staff. The night-soil service of the town and the scavengery work are done by contract. The construction of new roads and the maintenance and repair of public buildings and roads constituted the principal activities of the Department during the year.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

System of Law.—The law in civil matters is contained in the French Civil Code, Code of Commerce, and Code of Civil Procedure as they existed in 1810 and as amended by local Ordinances.

The Penal Code is mainly based on the French Penal Code but with considerable importations from English law and the Indian Penal Code.

Courts.—The Supreme Court of Seychelles has full jurisdiction in all civil and criminal matters save capital offences.

The Court of Assize has jurisdiction to try capital offences.

Both Courts are presided over by the Chief Justice. In the Court of Assize he is assisted by eight Assessors.

A Justice of the Peace is appointed for all Central and North Mahe District, another for the district of South Mahe and another for the islands of Praslin and La Digue. They exercise a limited jurisdiction and the maximum punishment is a fine of Rs.100 and one month's imprisonment.

When occasion offers the outlying islands are visited by an official appointed as Magistrate with the general powers of a Justice of the Peace.

An appeal lies from the inferior courts to the Supreme Court of the Colony.

In certain circumstances appeals lie, and points of law may be referred, to the Supreme Court of Mauritius.

Police.

The establishment of the Police Force consisted in 1937 of:—One Superintendent, a Sergeant-Major, three Sergeants, nine Corporals, and seventy-four Constables.

There were nine Police stations in Mahe, two in Praslin, and one at La Digue.

Criminal Statistics for 1937 :—

		Total Numbers.		
	Proceeded against.	*Convicted.*	*Fined.*	*Imprisoned.*
Supreme Court ...	597	459	382	58
Summary Courts...	1,299	978	846	82

Twenty-five male juveniles under the age of 16 were sentenced to corporal punishment, and in seven cases were fined or bound over. No corporal punishment can be inflicted on persons over 16 years of age.

Punishments.—Fines can be paid by instalments and time given for paying them. Time to pay is always given to first offenders.

It is not possible to maintain a reformatory for juvenile offenders. They are only sent to prison in exceptional cases. There is no developed probation system, but suitable cases are bound over for three years to be of good behaviour and to come up for judgment if called on.

Prisons.

The prison is situated in the town of Victoria. Its accommodation is ample. The sexes are separated.

Male prisoners are employed on making coconut fibre, stone-breaking, and on extra-mural work in maintaining Government properties, etc.

Female prisoners are employed on laundry and sewing work.

The health of the prisoners was excellent.

In 1937, the daily average number in prison amounted to 33 men and 4 women.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Social Legislation.—The population is almost entirely agricultural and there is no workmen's compensation legislation. Employers must provide medical and hospital treatment for workmen living on their property.

The Poor Relief Ordinance (No. 29 of 1919) provides for the provision of out-relief and also for the management of the Fiennes Institute, the Public Assistance Institute for the aged and infirm.

Important Ordinances passed in 1937:—

No. 1.—An Ordinance to establish and to regulate the Management and Control of an Agricultural Bank for the Colony of Seychelles.

No. 2.—An Ordinance to provide for the Grading and Inspection of Produce to be exported from the Colony.

No. 3.—An Ordinance to make provision for the Defence of Poor Prisoners.

No. 15.—An Ordinance relating to the Supervision of Factories and Machinery.

No. 16.—An Ordinance to amend the Outlying Islands Labour Ordinance, 1932 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1909).

No. 22.—An Ordinance to regulate the Cultivation of Sugar Cane and the Manufacture and Sale of Bacca.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Banking.

There are no banks in the Colony with the exception of a Government Savings Bank. The amount of deposit at the Treasury Savings Bank at the end of the year was Rs.373,523, an increase of Rs.106,257 on the previous year. In order to facilitate trade, the Treasury purchase and sell Drafts and undertake the collection of documentary Bills, etc., for London and foreign banks. The proceeds are remitted through the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London.

Currency.

The monetary unit in Seychelles is the Indian silver rupee of 100 cents. The following fractions of the rupee are in circulation:—silver 50-cent pieces and 25-cent pieces. Mauritius silver coins of 20 and 10 cents, and bronze coins of 5 and 2 cents, and 1 cent are also in circulation. Mauritius notes have been withdrawn from circulation and replaced by currency notes issued by the Government of Seychelles which are of the following values:—Rs.50, Rs.10, Rs.5, Re.1, and one-half rupee. The Seychelles currency notes in circulation on 31st December, 1937, amounted to Rs.497,976 secured by investments and cash in hand in terms of law.

Weights and Measures.

The metric system is in general use but there are some old French measures which are also used, such as:—

(1) *L'aune,* a measure for retailing cloth, etc., of 46·9 inches = 1·20 metres.

(2) *L'arpent* = 5,048 square yards or 0·42 hectare, for measuring land.

(3) *La gaulette,* employed on estates as a measure of task work in the fields = 10 French feet.

(4) *Le tierçon,* a small barrel, a measure of capacity generally imported from Mauritius, containing rum, about 190 litres.

(5) *Le velt,* a measure of capacity for coconut oil = 7·57 litres.

(6) *The cord,* used for stacking firewood, 4 ft. × 4 ft. × 8 ft. = 128 French cubic feet.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue for the year amounted to Rs.1,008,872 and the expenditure to Rs.903,901.

The following statement shows the revenue for each of the last five years:—

	Rs.
1933	592,043
1934	795,766
1935	728,173*
1936	801,878†
1937	1,008,872‡

The following statement shows the expenditure for each of the last five years:—

	Ordinary. Rs.	*From Surplus Funds.* Rs.
1933	654,500	4,049
1934	679,255	—
1935	675,058	(Rs.36,046 from C.D.F.)
1936	706,430	(Rs.106,306 from C.D.F.)
1937	903,901	(Rs.91,406 from C.D.F.)

Customs brought in the greater part of the revenue, i.e., Rs.378,955.

* (Includes a sum of Rs.166,182 transferred from the Guano Royalty Fund.)

† (Includes a sum of Rs.106,306 received from the Colonial Development Fund.)

‡ (Includes a sum of Rs.91,406 received from the Colonial Development Fund.)

The following table shows the proportion of receipts over a period of five years:—

	Customs. Rs.	*Taxes.* Rs.	*Other Sources.* Rs.	*Total.* Rs.
1933 ...	267,678	150,686	173,679	592,043
1934 ...	274,037	150,498	371,231	795,766
1935 ...	289,080	149,853	289,235	728,173
1936 ...	360,082	146,248	295,548*	801,878*
1937 ...	378,995	183,613	446,264†	1,008,872†

Public Debt.

The Colony has no Public Debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

The excess of assets over liabilities on 1st January, 1937, was Rs.586,768. On the 31st December, 1937, the amount had increased to Rs.691,739.

Taxation.

The following are the main heads of taxation:—

Customs Tariff.—An Ordinance was passed in July, 1932, granting a minimum preference of 10 per cent. in respect of goods of Empire origin, the *ad valorem* duty on which is 15 per cent.

A specific duty on food-stuffs, spirits, kerosene, paraffin, crude oil, petrol, benzine, and other motor spirits. A Poor Tax of 1 per cent. of a rupee per degree alcohol is levied on spirits. The above tariff, excepting wines, paraffin, kerosene, petrol and other motor spirits, is subject to a surtax of 10 per cent.

Export Duty.—A duty of Re.1·00 per ton of guano, mangrove bark and prepared fertilizers; Re.1·00 per hectolitre of whale oil; Rs.2·00 per ton of cinnamon bark.

Details of *Stamp Duties, Court Fees, etc.*, are set out in detail in the Blue Book for the year.

A *Rural House Tax* of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. is imposed with certain exceptions on the value of every rural house, exclusive of the value of the land on which such house is erected, provided that the minimum tax on any rural house shall be one rupee whenever the value of such house is less than one hundred rupees. There is also a Town Property Tax of $\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. on the value of all immovable property situated within the limits of the town of Victoria.

* Includes a sum of Rs.106,306 received from the Colonial Development Fund.

† Includes a sum of Rs.91,406 received from the Colonial Development Fund.

Income Tax.—This was payable during 1937 at the following rates:—

When the income is less than Rs.1,000, the rate shall be one per cent. on the amount subject to a minimum tax of two rupees.

When the income amounts to Rs.1,000 or more, the following rates shall be charged:—

2	per cent.	on the	first	Rs.1,000.	
3	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.1,000 up to	Rs.3,000.
5	,,	,,	,,	Rs.3,000 ,,	Rs.8,000.
7½	,,	,,	,,	Rs.8,000 ,,	Rs.15,000.
10	,,	,,	,,	Rs.15,000 ,,	Rs.25,000.
15	,,	,,	,,	Rs.25,000.	

Company income tax is as follows:—

5	per cent.	on the	1st	Rs.5,000.	
10	,,	,,	excess over	Rs.5,000 up to	Rs.10,000.
15	,,	,,	,,	Rs.10,000.	

XVII.—GENERAL.

There has been an appreciable rise in the price of copra the main product of the Colony, and in the price of cinnamon leaf oil and guano, the exports of which rank second and third respectively in order of value. Most planters' estates are mortgaged and, owing to the comparatively low price of their products in recent years the planters are experiencing difficulties in meeting their obligations. The establishment of an Agricultural Bank in the early part of the year has, however, improved the position of agriculturists considerably, as they can now obtain long-term loans on comparatively easy terms, and the rise in the price of copra has helped to ameliorate the position.

Towards the decline of the year, the market value of copra unfortunately took a downward trend whilst the position of cinnamon leaf oil became more than ever precarious.

Labourers wages have been reduced but on the whole, for those willing to work, employment has been available. Planters generally have allowed and encouraged their labourers to grow crops themselves, such as sweet potatoes, manioc, etc., which, together with rice (imported) and fish (which are abundant) form their staple diet. The trade figures given above indicate the extent to which the value of the trade of the Colony has declined. A beneficial effect of the recent depression has been to impress on the planters the necessity for better and more intensive cultivation, to which many are applying themselves with advice and guidance from the Agricultural Department.

The most important event of the year under review was the Coronation of Their Majesties King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth in Westminster Abbey on the 12th May, at which

representatives of the Colonial Empire attended for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth. Seychelles was represented by Mr. W. F. Stephens, Unofficial Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Colony, who received the Honour of a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire on the occasion.

Extensive celebrations of the Coronation were held throughout the Colony.

A permanent memorial of the Coronation, in the form of additional playing grounds for the growing generation in the capital town of Victoria, was approved soon after the termination of the local celebrations. Work on the memorial, which, by gracious permission of His Majesty, will be called " The King George VI Memorial Field," was begun early this year.

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out of print.

The Annual Blue Book and the Annual Reports of the several Government Departments may be obtained from the Governor's Office, or from the Crown Agents in London, at various prices. The Annual Report on the Social and Economic Progress of the People of the Colony of Seychelles is also obtainable at the Governor's Office or, in London, from His Majesty's Stationery Office (price varies from year to year).

* Copies may be seen in the Library of the Colonial Office.

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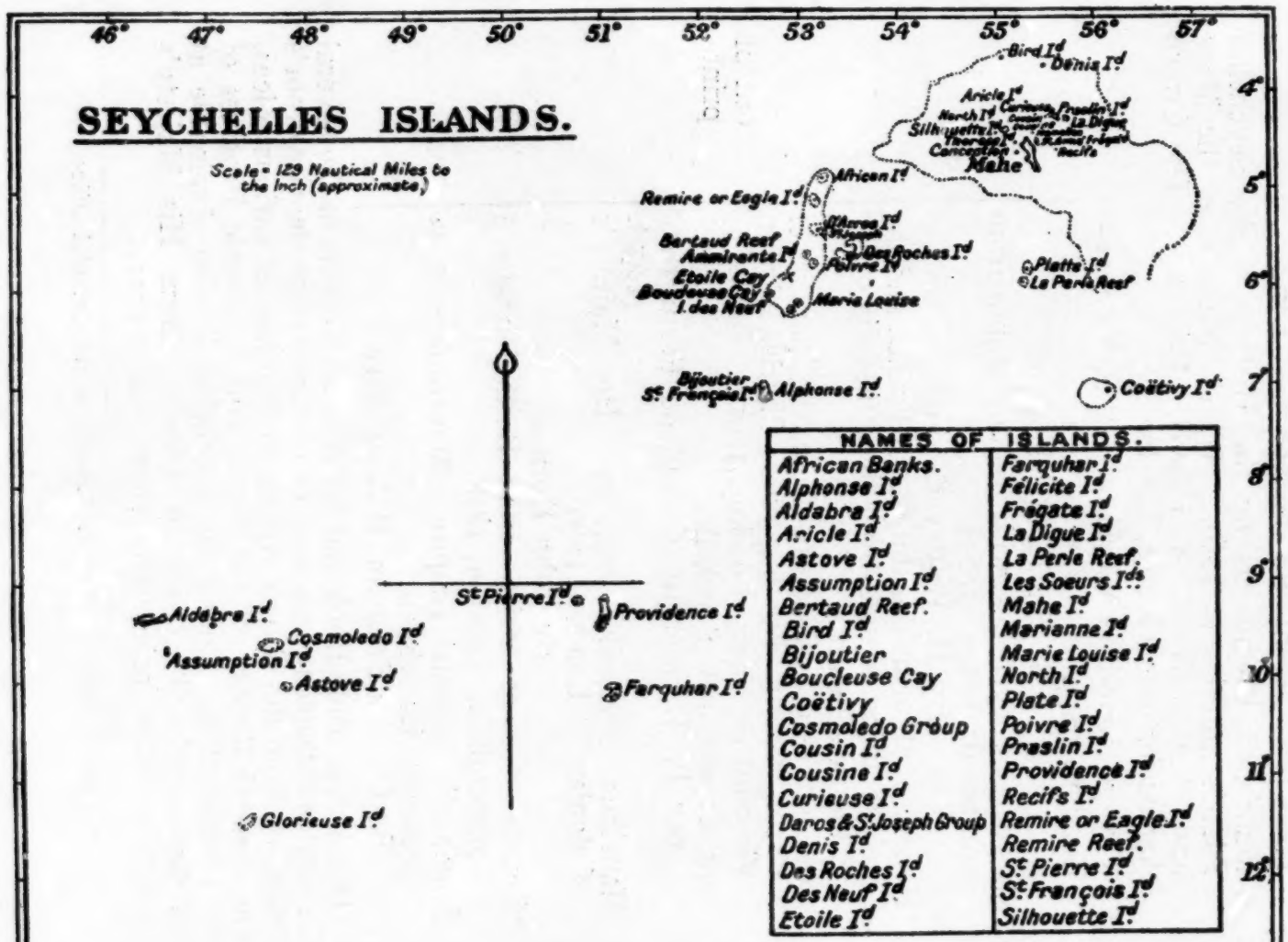
SEYCHELLES ISLANDS.

Scale = 129 Nautical Miles to the Inch (approximate)



NAMES OF ISLANDS.	
African Banks.	Farquhar Id.
Alphonse Id.	Félicite Id.
Aldabra Id.	Frégate Id.
Aricle Id.	La Digue Id.
Astove Id.	La Perle Reef.
Assumption Id.	Les Soeurs Ids.
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